



CONTRA COSTA  
Humane Society

2023

# Annual Report



# A Message From Our President

*Our Mission is to improve the quality of life for dogs and cats in our community, find homes for animals in need, and provide support for people who need assistance with care for their animals.*

## 2023 Board of Directors

**Jan Bono**  
*Board President*

**Casey Beard**  
*Secretary*

**Steve Amos**  
*Treasurer*

**Ken Broz**

**Christine Burke**

**Karen Collins**

**Nicole Haney**

**Myrna Schultz**

It takes a village. Thank you for your support as a critical part of our Contra Costa Humane Society village. In 2023, we strengthened our village and we remained true to our mission to support dogs and cats in our community, providing care for those that needed it the most, finding loving homes, and helping pet owners care for their furry family members and keep them even during tough financial periods. With your support and through the trusted partnerships we have built and the integration of our community programs, we adjusted our focus to reach into our community to help those that need it the most, and we were able to divert 15 animals from surrender to Contra Costa Animal Services, enabling those pets to remain with their owners. We continued our support of the Best Friends Society No Kill 2025 initiative and expanded our partnership with Contra Costa Animal Services to provide foster and adoption support to our most vulnerable population, unweaned and at-risk kittens. Your interest in our annual report is a demonstration of your compassion, interest, and empathy for the animals and pet owners we support in our community. I understand the heavy commitments most of us carry every day and am humbled by your support of our mission as one of our mighty volunteers, as one of our life-saving foster families, or as a partner, supporter, and advocate for us in the community.

We see you. We appreciate you.

In Service,



Jan Bono  
Contra Costa Humane Society President, Board of Directors

## Staff

**Suzanne Cowherd**, *Animal Programs Manager*

**Katrina Daw**, *Office Manager*

**Hiroko Anderson**, *Bookkeeper*

**Suanne Penney**, *Animal Programs Assistant*

**Allison Colarich**, *Adoption Coordinator*

**Vivian McGowan**, *Kitten Foster Coordinator*

# Animal Programs

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Contra Costa Humane Society structures our programming in a way that integrates our services as much as possible to maximize the support and positive impact we have to the animals and pet owners in our community. Our animal programs support both at risk and adoptable companion animals through our partnership with Contra Costa Animal Services (CCAS). Our goal is to place dogs and cats in loving homes and keep them out of shelters and cages. We are also focused on reducing viable kitten euthanasia through the year round operation of our robust kitten foster program.

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## Kitten Foster Program

### Partnership to Reduce Viable Kitten Euthanasia

Contra Costa Humane Society's partnership with Contra Costa Animal Services reduces viable kitten euthanasia through our innovative foster program. Our focus is on neonatal kittens, nursing mothers with kittens, at risk kittens, and kittens with treatable medical conditions that all require 24-hour support and care. Through this program, kittens are placed with our volunteer foster families, who care for them until they are ready for adoption. Our foster program expanded in 2023 to include adult cats with medical needs that will make better recoveries in foster homes.

## Kitten Rescue Impact

280

kittens taken in

180

kittens found  
forever homes



## Kitty Corner

### Contra Costa's First Free-Roam Feline Environment

In Contra Costa Humane Society's Kitty Corner, adoption-ready cats and kittens live in a relaxed, home-like environment while they await adoption. All of our Kitty Corner residents have been spayed or neutered, fully vaccinated, and are ready to find their forever families. Potential adopters schedule appointments to meet cats and kittens in this homelike setting so that they can find the cat that best fits their family. Additionally, the cat or kitten can interact naturally with the family interested in adoption. This ensures adopting families have a better understanding of how each cat or kitten interacts with humans and other cats, and get a preview of the cat's or kitten's personality and behaviors. We also maintain a hospice program designed to support cats that have been diagnosed with terminal illnesses, so they can live out the rest of their days in comfort and love from our volunteers.



### Cat Rescue Impact

66

cats taken in

83

cats found  
forever homes

# Animal Programs

## Shelter Dog Sunday School

In 2023, we embarked on a journey to provide more support to dogs who currently reside in the CCAS Martinez facility. Through our partnership with CCAS, we recognized a need to support adoptable dogs that are susceptible to kennel stress. Based on that need, we developed programming designed to provide adoptable dogs with enrichment, exercise, and a break from their kennels, as well as basic manners training to strengthen adoption profiles with a goal to move as many dogs into successful outcomes as possible. Our program is called Sunday School because our teams of volunteers meet every Sunday at the Martinez facility to work with identified dogs. Dogs come into the Sunday School program by recommendations from CCAS staff and volunteers and stay in our program until they leave the facility. The type of enrichment varies and depends on the needs and preferences of each dog. Activities range from basic manners training, “sniffy” walks, and puzzles for mental stimulation; zoomies, agility, and fetch to blow off steam and get some exercise; pool time and pupsicles for hot days; grooming and belly rubs for relaxation and love. And all of those activities come with a variety of high value treats to keep the dogs engaged. Our Sunday School volunteers also support mobile adoption events, helping to introduce dogs to potential adopters at public events in order to find the right dog for their home environment.

### Sunday School Impact

26

Sunday School  
Sessions

91

Dogs  
Supported



## **Extra Help for CCHS Cats and Dogs in Need**

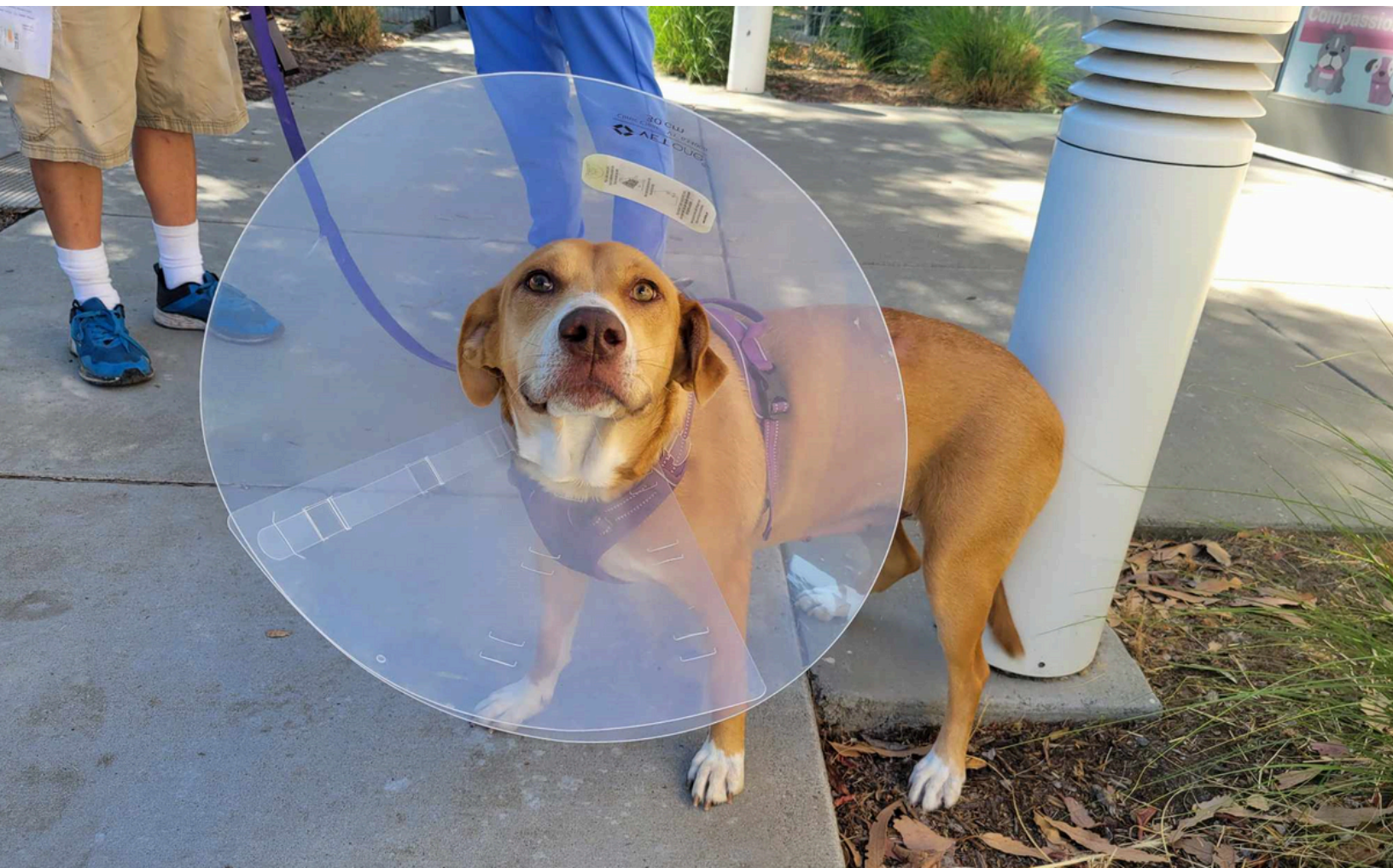
Contra Costa Humane Society's Special Needs Fund focuses on companion animals in our program that require specialized care or medical treatment to prepare them for adoption. This program helps fund the specialty care these animals need to lead fulfilling, happy lives and find loving homes. Although every course of treatment is very specific to each animal's needs, typical examples include dental work, diagnostic testing and treatment, eye surgery, cleft palate repair, and surgery to repair broken limbs. The majority of the animals supported by our special needs program have gone on to live their best lives in their adopted homes.



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Contra Costa Humane Society is proud of our commitment to support pet owners in our community who may need a little help to properly care for their beloved pets. Our community outreach programs are integrated with a common goal: to keep pets in their homes, where they are loved, and out of shelters.

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## AniMeals

### Providing Food and Supplies to Keep People and Pets Together

AniMeals, Contra Costa Humane Society's partnership with local food pantries, provides dog and cat food and pet supplies to residents of Contra Costa County that may need a little help to care for their furry family members. By working with community groups, local businesses, and compassionate individuals to collect and distribute food and supplies in locations across the county on a monthly basis, AniMeals helps families and their pets stay together, regardless of circumstance or financial situation.



**32,874**

pounds of dog and cat food were  
distributed through AniMeals

## SNAP—Spay/Neuter Assistance for Pet Owners in Need

Contra Costa Humane Society's Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) has partnered with International Veterinary Outreach (IVO) and Contra Costa Animal Services to provide spay and neuter services for companion cats and dogs to Contra Costa County pet owners. Our services are offered at no cost to our clients and are focused on the clients that do not have access to veterinary services, including the unhoused and pet owners in marginalized communities. Our "pop-up" monthly clinics are operated in the Contra Costa Animal Services Martinez facility.



### Legacy SNAP Program



# 28

Cats and Dogs supported  
January-May, 2023

### NEW SNAP Program

# 111

Cats and Dogs supported  
May-December, 2023

## Rehoming When There Are No Other Options

We understand that sometimes life changes may impact the ability to keep a beloved pet in your home. Contra Costa Humane Society rehoming services provide a free courtesy posting of a pet that needs to be placed in a new loving home. Our counselors work with clients to first understand the circumstances and provide services and recommendations to keep the pet with its current owner if possible. If rehoming is the only option, the pet owner keeps the pet at home through the posting process and screens all applications for the pet, making any adoption decisions.



## Fundraising

### Raising Funds That Help Our Organization Run

Contra Costa Humane Society relies on donations to run our organization's successful programs. Walk for Paws is an active outdoor event that brings people and their pets together to raise awareness in the community. Coming to the Rescue, our biggest annual event, is a can't-miss fundraiser and silent auction that helps sustain our organization throughout the year. Other fundraising activities include grants, mailed solicitations, car donations, employer matching, and bequests.



**\$84,132**

dollars raised through our  
fundraising efforts to support our  
programs

## Volunteers The Heart and Soul of Our Organization

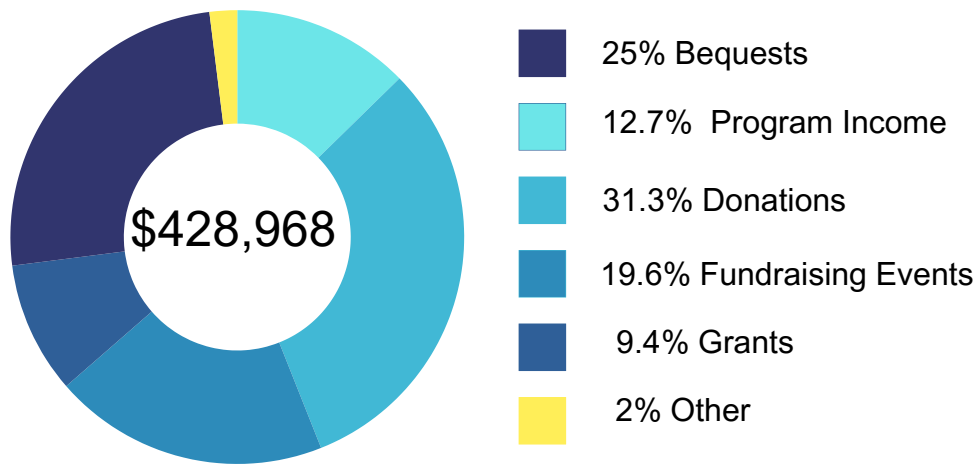
Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. They are involved in every aspect of our programs, caring for kittens and cats, providing much needed support to shelter dogs, supporting the community with pet food and supplies, assisting low income families with spaying and neutering their pets and tirelessly raising funds to enable the work we do to continue. Even our Board of Directors is a team of volunteers who also support our programs, in addition to running the day to day operations of our organization. We couldn't do the work we do without the support of our amazing volunteers.

Our volunteers served a total

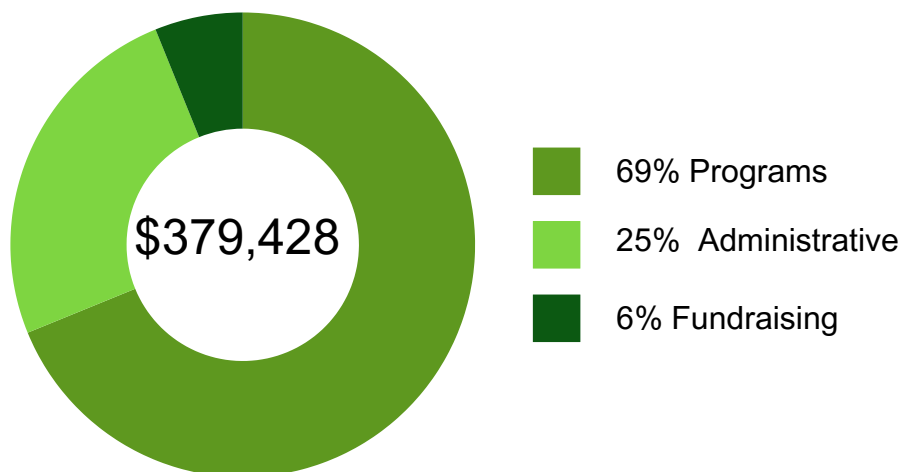
of  
**7,347**  
hours to support our  
organization



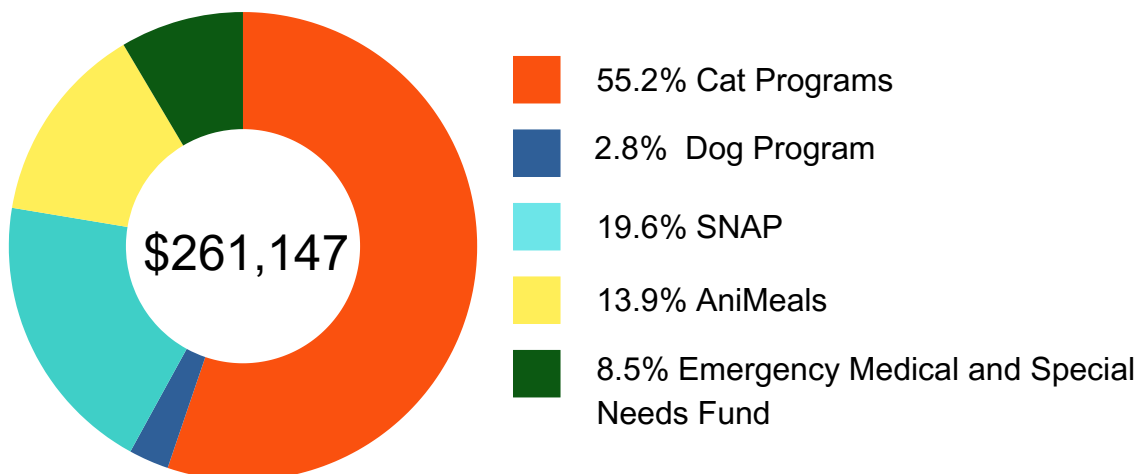
## Income Sources



## Functional Expenses



## Program Expenses



Income Sources and Functional Expenses herein exceed totals within the 2023 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990 (990) Part VIII Statement of Revenue and Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses, respectively, by \$2,208 of direct fundraising expenses (as detailed in 990 Schedule G, Part II) due to IRS reporting rules.