



# Front Street Animal Shelter

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# Dear Friends,

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As I take a moment to reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and hope despite the challenges we continue to face in the realm of animal wellbeing and sheltering. These challenges, including increased animal intake and the need for affordable veterinary care, remind us of the significance of our work, not just for the animals but for the people they love.

The dedicated team at Front Street Animal Shelter has persevered through staffing shortages, and I am proud to share that we are nearing full staffing levels for both our shelter and field services. This progress is critical as we strive to ensure that every animal entering our doors receives the compassionate and humane care they deserve during their stay.

Reflecting on our achievements gives me inspiration. Our staff, volunteers, donors, grantors, and community leaders have come together in remarkable ways. It warms my heart to see our community fostering more animals than ever, proving that we are all in this together. Our Homeless Outreach Assistance Program has expanded to help even more pets and their families, reinforcing the bond between animals and their people. With our free monthly clinics for vaccines, microchips, and pet supplies, we have reached beyond the City of Sacramento, serving the greater region and ensuring that every pet is cared for. Our volunteers have risen to the occasion, not only assisting within the shelter and fostering animals, but actively participating in our outreach programs. Their dedication exemplifies the spirit of compassion that defines our community. I am incredibly thankful for our elected officials who have taken the time to understand the challenges we face and the work we do.

This year, we completed a comprehensive Shelter Needs Assessment in collaboration with the City of Sacramento's Animal Wellbeing Commission. It may not come as a surprise that our findings indicate the urgent need for a new shelter, with an estimated cost of \$40 to \$60 million. While funding remains a challenge, we are determined to explore innovative solutions to make this dream a reality in the coming years.

Looking ahead to 2025, we must prepare for a challenging budget climate, with the City facing a \$77 million deficit. There will be difficult decisions, but one thing remains clear: Sacramento's commitment to its animals and the people who care for them is unwavering. Together, we can navigate these difficulties and continue to uplift both animals and people in our community.

I want to reassure you that I, alongside our incredible team, remain committed to making a positive impact at the Front Street Animal Shelter and throughout Sacramento. Together, we can foster a brighter future for every animal in our care and in our community—because together, we are indeed better.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Phillip Zimmerman  
Front Street Animal Shelter Manager

# Key Numbers



9,811 animals taken in  
*(includes dogs, cats, and other domestic animals)*



1,397 returned to home



4,858 adoptions



**84%**

Dog Live Release Rate\*

**75%**

Cat Live Release Rate\*\*

**80%**

Overall Live Release Rate

\*Number of animals that enter the shelter and leave with a positive outcome

\*\*Because we primarily intake sick/injured cats and neonatal kittens, this number skews lower.

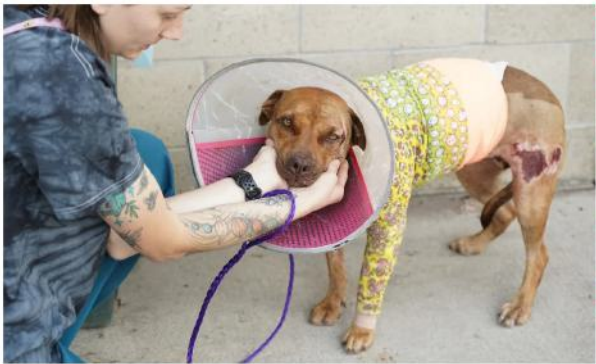
# Medical team

Performed 3,420 onsite spay/neuter surgeries, 5,596 exams, thousands of treatments, and hundreds of surgeries.



## Recovery spotlight

Shuri had reportedly been dragged behind a car, resulting in horrific injuries. After months of hard work, bandage changes and love, she made a full recovery and went from being a timid dog in pain to a confident dog full of joy. Her adopters say she is SO happy in her new home with her new fur-siblings.



# Volunteer team

1,102 volunteers logged 93,568 hours, assisting in all areas of the shelter including cleaning, dog walking, adoption counseling, office work, event assistance, fostering, veterinary support and so much more. The shelter couldn't function without our amazing volunteers.



## Volunteer spotlight



Since 2014, Lesa has logged 6,420 hours doing cat fostering, being a mentor to our cat foster parents, and last year, spent a tremendous amount of time helping to coordinate our cat foster program during staffing shortages. Some volunteers work so much we almost forget they aren't employees, and Lesa is one of those dedicated individuals.

# Foster and rescue team

It was an incredibly busy year for our foster team, especially due to the long backlog of spay and neuter surgeries, which required sending animals to foster care with their future adopters. In total, 2,485 dogs and 2,607 cats were sent to some form of foster care. 819 animals were transferred to our amazing transfer and rescue partners.



## Foster spotlight



Justin is one of our all-star dog foster dads. He takes on dogs that have behavior issues that can be very difficult to place, and has given many of them the second chance at life that they needed to eventually get adopted. Pictured is Evan, a dog who likely had never lived indoors and was very hyperactive inside. Evan was returned twice, but the third adopter was the charm. Our amazing foster volunteers save lives every day!

# Customer service team

Our customer service representatives are often the first and last point of contact for animals coming into and out of the shelter. The team took in 7,285 animals, processed 4,863 adoptions, helped return 1,313 animals to their owners, and received 10,620 requests for service.



## Return to home spotlight



Our customer service reps work tirelessly each day to get animals into homes - whether back to their original homes or into new adoptive homes. By researching Kiki's microchip the team was able to contact Hien, who had lost Kiki 3 years earlier! The customer service team makes heartwarming moments like this possible each day.

# Field services team

Our animal care officers grappled with extreme understaffing this past year, working as fast as possible to keep up with an ever-growing list of calls. They received 23,147 requests for service, provided 11,243 physical responses, completed 4,837 welfare checks, assisted with 2,614 calls related to homelessness, picked up 2,195 live animals, and processed 856 bite reports. Fortunately we've been able to fill nearly all our officer positions going into 2025!



## Case spotlight

2024 was a very busy year for hoarding cases, the largest of which was for 34 dogs from the same household. Gunner, a 15-year-old Maltese, was one of the dogs rescued from hoarding. He came to us in rough shape, but we're so glad to see him thriving in his new home.





# Animal care team

Our animal care team is responsible for caring for hundreds of animals at the shelter at any given time, including cleaning, feeding, vaccinating, microchipping, transporting, and counseling potential adopters to help them find the best match for their family. In 2024 they administered 3,360 Bordetella vaccines, 3,826 DHPP vaccines, 2,360 FVRCP vaccines, 3,620 rabies vaccines, and 17,721 flea, tick, and dewormer treatments.



## Adoption spotlight



After their beloved 18-year-old cat passed away, Nikita and her family decided they were ready to open their hearts again. She brought her two daughters, Rockell and Vickie, to the shelter and found these 13-week-old siblings. The sisters had never seen kittens in person before and said they were most excited to have the time to watch this adorable duo grow up.

# H.O.A.P. team

Our Homeless Outreach and Assistance Program team had a very busy year assisting owners experiencing homelessness and their pets. They provided care to 1,325 animals, assisted 747 owners, arranged spay/neuter for 253 pets (while providing transport assistance to 57% of those pets), and administered 3,995 treatments including vaccines, flea prevention, dewormer, and more.



## HOAP client spotlight



When Jackie needed a hand, our Homeless Outreach and Assistance Program was there to help by finding a foster home for Juicy. Even though Juicy had a great time with her foster family (including a thrilling trip to the snow), she was even more excited to be reunited with Jackie. Jackie is now in housing and recently acquired a job with Caltrans.

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# Community Outreach

*We went beyond our walls to help more people and pets than ever.*



## Protected 7,413 pets

with free vaccines and microchips at clinics throughout the city.



## Gave 73,000 lbs of pet food

to hundreds of families in need, preventing surrender to shelters.



## Provided free spay/neuter

to 710 owned animals to reduce pet overpopulation and prevent unwanted litters.

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# Work with our nonprofit

*A huge portion of our work is entirely funded by donations.*

## 2,348 community cats

spayed and neutered to prevent litters from being born on the streets.



## 244 shelter and community pets

received lifesaving treatment and specialty care.



## 29 animals supported

with lifetime care through our hospice adoption program.



## 200 cash grants

given to transfer partners and rescue organizations that pulled animals from our shelter.





**To our adopters, volunteers, fosters, elected officials, grantors, and donors - without your support, our work wouldn't be possible. Thanks for all you do, and we look forward to making an impact with you in 2025!**

*City of*  
**SACRAMENTO**  
Front Street Animal Shelter