TULSA SPCA

2019/2020

Impact Report

Letter from the CEO

I have had the privilege of leading the Tulsa SPCA since March, 2014. Early on I realized each year brings new challenges as well as opportunities to fulfill our mission to improve the lives of dogs and cats, and their human companions. Each year is unique, but none more so than the dichotomy of 2019 and 2020.

2019 brought unique challenges such as historic flooding but also new opportunities to work together with other animal welfare agencies in our community to increase our impact. Additionally, we completed construction on a new clinic, almost three times as large as our previous building and were able to provide a record number of low-cost veterinary services to our community.

Almost 4,400 spay/neuter surgeries and 15,000 vaccinations for example! Our Animal Connections staff were able to intake and place a record number of dogs and cats during 2019 as well.

We moved into 2020 on a high note with big plans to increase our impact in the community. The first two and a half months saw us hire a third veterinarian and begin offering low-cost preventative care services as well as place a record number of dogs and cats. Then in mid-March, along with the rest of the world, our plans changed drastically.

It is hard to think of a time when I was more proud of my staff, volunteers and community than the Spring of 2020. As information came out about COVID-19, staff quickly developed new procedures designed to keep each other, our animals and our clients safe. The work of animal sheltering is already difficult physically, mentally and emotionally and COVID-19 magnified that; but everyone pulled together and approached the new reality with positivity and resilience. Additionally, the community answered our call to foster by generously taking almost 120 animals into their homes in less than a week.

Although our owner surrender numbers were down in 2020, leading to decreased intake overall, we found ourselves assisting with a record number of hoarding cases. One, a joint rescue with our partner Oklahoma Alliance for Animals was one of the largest, most distressing puppy mill seizures in our history. Over 75 dogs were rescued from horrific circumstances and given the opportunity to find loving, forever homes.

Although we were concerned about funding, again, our supporters in the community stepped up and made sure our work could continue. To top the year off, we were gifted with an incredibly generous $1 million estate gift from John R. and Tricia Arend. This gift highlights the importance of the financial generosity of our supporters. Without them the work we do would not be possible. The Tulsa SPCA is not affiliated with any national organizations nor do we receive any government funding. Everything we are able to do is a result of private donations made directly to our organization.

This work, although often difficult, is so meaningful. The dogs and cats we help want nothing more than to love and be loved. Being able to help make that a reality is a privilege.

Thank you so much for your support. We have exciting plans for the future and I hope you'll continue to be a part of the Tulsa SPCA and the work we do.

Mindy Tiner
CEO, Tulsa SPCA

2019 STATISTICS

1,127
Dogs and Cats Placed

Average length of stay*

**length of stay refers to the number of days an animal is with a shelter from intake to adoption*

FOR DOGS ▼27%

2018	2019
28.9 DAYS	21.1 DAYS

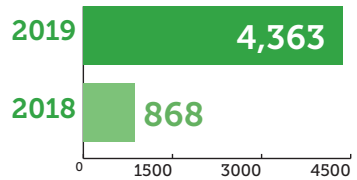
FOR CATS ▼18%

2018	2019
45.8 DAYS	37.5 DAYS

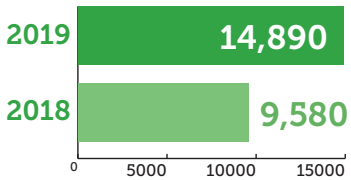
15,000+ lbs
OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

878
CRUELTY CASES RESOLVED

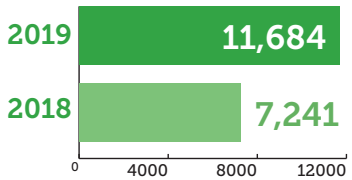
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed



Vaccinations Administered



Volunteer Hours Given



2020 STATISTICS

905
Dogs and Cats Placed

FOR DOGS ▲31%

2019	2020
21.1 DAYS	30.4 DAYS

Average length of stay*†

**length of stay refers to the number of days an animal is with a shelter from intake to adoption*

FOR CATS ▲26%

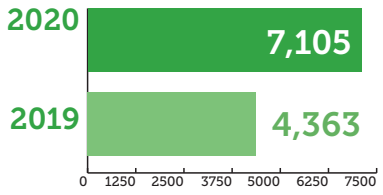
2019	2020
37.5 DAYS	50.6 DAYS

† increased length of stay due to the impact of COVID-19

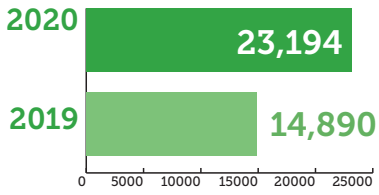
42,000+ lbs
OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

1,004
CRUELTY CASES RESOLVED

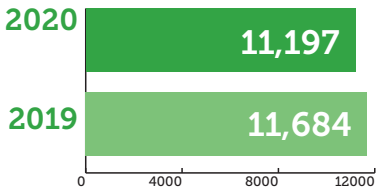
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed



Vaccinations Administered



Volunteer Hours Given



Low-Cost Veterinary Clinic

The construction of the new 7,000-square-foot veterinary clinic made history as the Tulsa SPCA embarked on its first major facility renovation in several decades. Nearly three times the size of the former clinic, this building has allowed the Tulsa SPCA to expand its services to both shelter animals and public owned animals, as well as those in the care of other shelters and rescues. Additionally, it has positioned the Tulsa SPCA to significantly improve the state of animal welfare by providing affordable medical care to the community in an effort to keep families together and reduce the number of animals surrendered or abandoned in Oklahoma. After receiving a $1 million estate gift from John R. and Tricia Arend, one of the largest gifts in the organization's history, the Tulsa SPCA formally named its clinic in their honor.

Due to the quick onset of COVID-19 in our community, we had to close our new clinic doors just as quickly as we opened them. In 2020, the Tulsa SPCA was forced to shut down for eight weeks and drastically adjust clinic operations once opened again. There was a substantial increase in services requested that year, but with financial support from the community, the Tulsa SPCA was still able to accommodate a 47% increase in vaccination needs as well as a 78% increase in spay/neuter surgery needs.

The John and Tricia Arend Clinic is always in need of support. If donors are interested and have questions, they can contact **VP of Philanthropy and Communications, Lori Long, at giving@tulsaspca.org or (918) 428-7722, extension 1037.**

NEW CLINIC		OLD CLINIC
6,800	**Square Feet**	2,500
513	**Waiting Room Square Footage**	210
4	**Surgery Tables**	2
2	**Exam Rooms**	1
Cat and Dog Isolation Rooms	**Isolation Rooms**	No permanent space
More Efficient	**Kennel Space**	Less Efficient

IN 2020

23,194 vaccinations
7,105 spay/neuter surgeries
4,896 microchips

IN 2019

14,890 vaccinations
4,390 spay/neuter surgeries
2,217 microchips

Adoptions

Tulsa SPCA adoptable dogs and cats arrive at our shelter from various circumstances. Some are pulled from other area shelters, while others are surrendered by their owners or brought to us through situations involving our cruelty investigator. One thing these pets all have in common is as soon as they come through our doors, the Tulsa SPCA staff works diligently to find them safe and loving forever homes.

We wish dogs and cats could talk and tell us their stories. Some we find out from previous owners, but most are a mystery. What we do know is after being in our care, they become stronger, healthier and happier pets.

All animals adopted from the Tulsa SPCA are:

- **Spayed or neutered**
- **Up-to-date on all vaccinations**
- **Heartworm or FIV/FeLV tested**
- **Up-to-date on preventatives (flea and tick, heartworm)**
- **Microchipped**

CHEETO

Cheeto

Board member Charlotte Henry adopted Cheeto despite having an allergy to cats. Here is Cheeto's story in her words.

"I saw Cheeto online and I asked if I could visit with him outside the Cat Room. I have a terrible allergy to kitties and was worried about being near so many of them. I am not sure WHY Cheeto made such a big impression, but something in me said I had to help this cat. We met and I had no reaction. Which is crazy because I just touch a cat and a welt will appear.

A week goes by and I asked if he had been adopted. I was told no one was interested. He only had half his coat (due to a skin allergy) and was very timid with the other cats. I told Mindy Tiner, CEO of the Tulsa SPCA, that if someone adopts him, I will sponsor his flea medicine (source of allergy) for a year. I felt so compelled to help him.

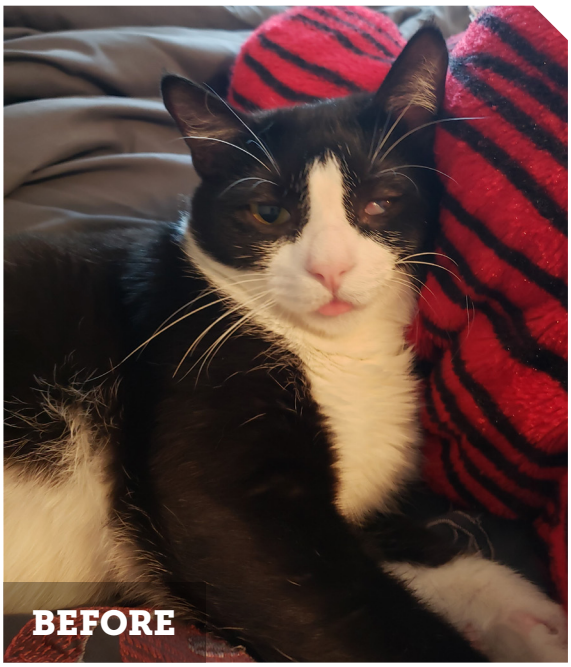
The next week I asked about him again. It was suggested I foster him so I could see how he interacted with our dogs and if I would have a reaction with a longer exposure. I picked up Cheeto the next week. When Cheeto's coat was healing and coming back the Tulsa SPCA volunteer coordinator reached out and asked how things were going. I realized then there was no way I could ever give up our sweet kitty."

Before and After

Hook came to the Tulsa SPCA in December 2018 after his caregiver, a senior citizen, passed away. He was extremely ill with an upper respiratory infection and was not healthy enough to endure a neuter surgery for several weeks. In addition, Hook's left eye had a defect that could not be repaired as the injury was an issue long before he was surrendered to the Tulsa SPCA's care.

Hook was afraid of people when he arrived and gaining his trust took time. More than two months passed before we found him a forever family willing to overlook his physical disability and have patience to work with him to become trustworthy and social.

Hook was adopted on February 24 and is now living in a safe, warm home where he is loved and cared for.



HOOK

Some people refer to the Tulsa SPCA as a "no-kill" shelter because almost all the animals we serve walk out of our doors. We discourage that terminology because no shelter or rescue ever wants to "kill" the animals it is their mission to save. Unfortunately, some open admission shelters are forced to make the difficult decision to euthanize for space. The Tulsa SPCA, as a managed intake shelter, is able to pull animals from open intake shelters as one source of our intakes instead of being in their position. However, the truth is, although never for space, we do sometimes make the decision to euthanize. If an animal is suffering and the cause cannot be treated, we will euthanize. We will also euthanize if an animal is deemed dangerously aggressive. Luckily, we are not forced to make that difficult decision often. The Tulsa SPCA uses the Asilomar Live Release Rate to highlight the number of animals who left our care with a live outcome (adoption, return to owner, etc.). We are pleased to report our live release rate for 2019 and 2020 was 97%!

New Lease on Life!

78 dogs rescued from a Sequoyah County puppy mill find safe, loving homes.

In mid-July 2020, the Tulsa SPCA was asked to assist with an animal cruelty and neglect case in Sequoyah County involving a puppy mill. In partnership with the Oklahoma Alliance for Animals, we rescued 84 dogs from living conditions beyond anyone's imagination.

These dogs were used for breeding and were bred in order for their owners to make money. They were living in cages and tote bags, unable to move or stretch and soaked and caked in urine and feces. Malnourished and emaciated, some of these dogs were unrecognizable as they were so matted it was hard to tell if they were living creatures or simply balls of dirty, crusty hair. Nightmarish was the word that came to mind for those involved in the rescue efforts.

The Tulsa SPCA took in 78 of the 84 dogs to assess and treat both medically and behaviorally and to prepare for adoption. It wasn't an easy task. Mindy Tiner, the Tulsa SPCA CEO said, "The challenge with these dogs, in addition to the sheer number who came in at one time, was the amount of medical and emotional care they needed. Where normally we might have a few intakes a month who have severe dental disease and other extraordinary needs, almost all of these dogs did."

The Tulsa SPCA staff got to work. All of the 78 dogs received the treatment we normally provide — vaccinations, heartworm testing and preventative, spay/neuter surgery, deworming, flea and tick preventatives and microchipping. The more serious cases, as Tiner mentions previously, had tooth extractions, tumor removals, eye removals, ear and skin infection treatments, nail trims and severe mats removed. And in addition to the physical needs of these dogs, Tulsa SPCA staff members provided emotional support, as well.

"These dogs had almost no socialization skills which required a lot of effort and patience on our part," Tiner said. "They had lived their whole lives in small cages and most had never stepped foot on grass. Many simply turned in small circles when placed on the grass for the first time because they didn't realize they could move any farther. So gaining their trust was also part of the rehabilitation process."

The Sequoyah County case was of huge interest to the general public and almost immediately, the Tulsa SPCA was inundated with requests to foster and adopt. Placing the dogs, named after U.S. states and countries around the world, into foster homes was a huge undertaking as all foster and adoptive families have to be approved. At the same time, the shelter's staff was fielding offers of help from rescue groups around the country.

China before and after being rescued

Dogs from Sequoyah County before and after their rescue

"It was important the dogs be placed with families who provided the right fit for their situation," Tiner said. Of the 78 dogs, 36 went to foster homes, while the remainder were adopted straight from the shelter. All 78 have now been adopted and are living in safe, happy homes with their forever families.

Intaking dogs and cats always has a price. Costs for food, shelter, microchips, spay/neuter surgeries and preventative medicine stack up under normal circumstances. The Sequoyah County cruelty case was not a normal situation. In just 24 hours, the Tulsa SPCA brought to its shelter 78 dogs who needed immediate attention. Add to that, a global pandemic which closed all incoming revenue for eight weeks and the Tulsa SPCA knew it would need the public's help to offset costs to assist these dogs. The public came through in many ways including donations of money and supplies.

Incredible generosity was shown during that critical time, but the Tulsa SPCA still needs your help to continue our work. Not all the dogs and cats who come into our shelter needing assistance come from such dire circumstances, but they all need our help nonetheless. If you would like to make a one-time donation or sign up as a Faithful Friend with a monthly donation, visit our website at tulsaspca.org/donate.

Tiner said, "Knowing the Sequoyah County dogs have been rescued from the filth and horror they'd known their whole lives and that they now have a chance to understand love and what it means to truly live in a home with humans who show them kindness is what makes this often difficult and heartbreaking work worth it."

TWIGGY TODAY

TWIGGY WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE TULSA SPCA

12 DAYS AFTER ARRIVAL

CRUELTY INVESTIGATOR

Twiggy's Story

One of the animals the Tulsa SPCA rescued in 2019 was a white pit mix named Twiggy. The Tulsa SPCA cruelty investigator, Tim Geen, received a cruelty complaint from a contractor who had been performing work and noticed an emaciated dog on the adjacent property.

Once Geen arrived, he learned the contractor had been working at the location for six weeks and the house next door was vacant the entire time.

"It is unclear why the dog wasn't noticed prior," Geen said. "But by the time we arrived, the situation was critical. We immediately removed the dog and brought him to our clinic."

"He was an anatomy lesson," vet assistant Erin Johnson said. "He smiled that day. He still does, even after all he has been through."

At intake Twiggy weighed 29 lbs. and was both critically dehydrated and anemic due to a flea and worm infestation. "It only took one of us to lift him into the tub," Johnson said. The clinic at the Tulsa SPCA immediately began treatment and hoped for the best.

The 3-year-old pit mix had been eating sticks and grass in the overgrown yard where he'd been abandoned for six weeks. The cruelty and clinic staff named him Twiggy for his poops full of leaves and twigs.

Mindy Tiner, CEO of the Tulsa SPCA, requested Tulsa Animal Welfare pursue charges against the people who abandoned Twiggy and turned in Geen's report and supporting documentation to the City of Tulsa.

Over the next several days, Twiggy started to improve. "We put a sweater on him," former volunteer manager Jessica Padilla-Hernandez said. "Both because he was shaking cold, and so people wouldn't think we were terrible. He had no body fat."

"All he did for the first week and a half was sleep," Padilla-Hernandez said. "He'd get up to eat and just go back to sleep." After his first 12 days in the care of the Tulsa SPCA, Twiggy had increased his weight to 42 lbs.

Within a few weeks, the team found out that Twiggy's case was officially opened by Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler. Ultimately, the defendant pled no contest and was sentenced on a felony charge of animal cruelty. Twiggy was released for adoption, and the bond formed between him and Jessica Padilla-Hernandez, who had fostered Twiggy during his care, led to a very happy ending. Padilla-Hernandez immediately adopted Twiggy, who is now thriving in his loving forever home.

"Twiggy's resilience and love for humans amazes us," Tiner said, "because we know what he went through at the hands of someone who was supposed to love and care for him."

Twiggy now weighs 52 lbs. and is able to run, play and begin to trust humans again. "He doesn't fit into his green sweater anymore," Padilla-Hernandez said. "Which is good news because it means he doesn't need its protection anymore either."

"I wish I could say Twiggy was the first animal we'd assisted in this way, or that he would be the last," Tiner said. "But unfortunately, we know there will be more."

2019
Community Engagement

49 ADOPTION EVENTS ATTENDED

72 NURSING HOME VISITS

33 FESTIVALS, CARNIVALS & PARADES ATTENDED

6 SCHOOLS VISITED

44 VOLUNTEER GROUPS
assisting the Tulsa SPCA on-site

59 COMMUNITY EVENTS
attended by volunteers

*Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 the majority of our community engagement activities were suspended.

Volunteer Spotlight

Savannah, Youth Volunteer of 2020, began volunteering at the Tulsa SPCA when she was nine years old. Her goal was to help us succeed in whatever capacity she could and was willing to take on the toughest of jobs.

Savannah primarily volunteered at our low-cost vaccination clinic every Friday, one of our busiest days where we always needed an extra hand. She would ensure every client had the appropriate paper work and helped keep the flow of traffic moving in order to assist as many animals as possible.

“Our team is appreciative of Savannah’s hard work at our vaccination clinic. It’s volunteers like her that make our mission possible", said Erin Johnson, vet assistant for the Tulsa SPCA.

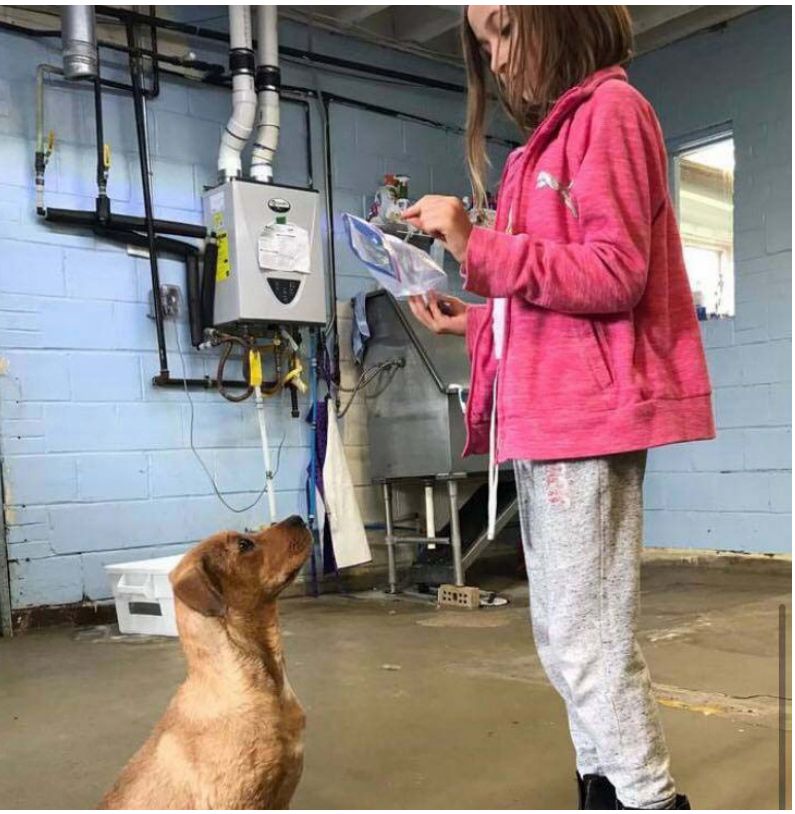
Savannah’s selfless work ethic, generous heart, and bright personality continues to amaze us all. We are incredibly grateful to have her as a Tulsa SPCA volunteer.

Foster Spotlight

Rebekah has been a part of the Tulsa SPCA family for more than 20 years. She faithfully volunteers when her time allows and recently began fostering in light of the pandemic.

Rebekah says she loves to foster and every new animal she brings into her home feels like Christmas. She’s always had a connection with animals, specifically dogs, and appreciates building relationships with them. It leaves her with a sense of pride and joy knowing she was able to help in their journey of finding a forever home. Rebekah couldn’t possibly imagine giving back in any other way.

“We really appreciate her. She and her family also help out our organization by volunteering their time for socializing our dogs on campus and have even helped our Pet Care team with kennel cleaning! We know when we send a dog home with her, they will learn skills to help them transition to a forever home and they will be in great hands while they wait,” said Lauren Holder, Animal Connections Manager for the Tulsa SPCA.

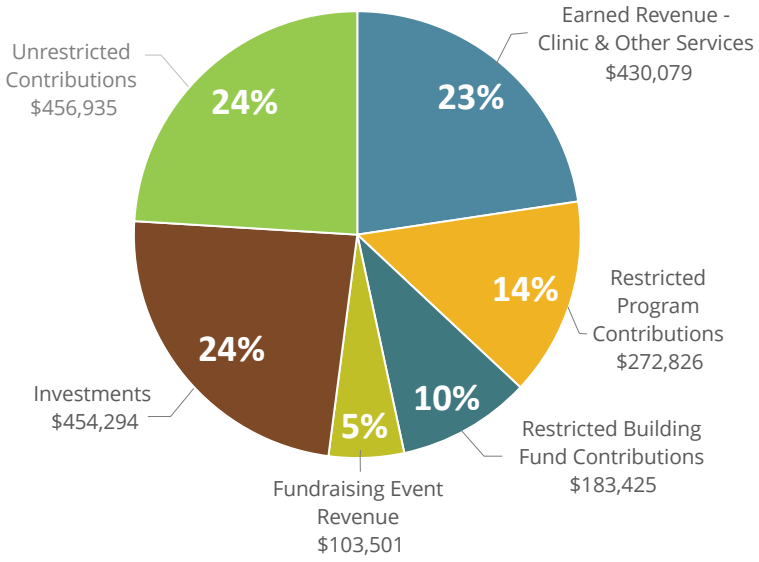


If you are interested in volunteering or fostering with us, please email volunteers@tulsaspca.org or foster@tulsaspca.org to get connected!

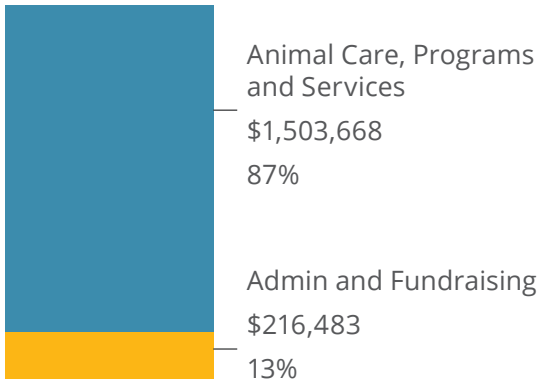
2019 and 2020 Financials

Financial transparency and accountability are key to a thriving nonprofit. The Tulsa SPCA is pleased to share our financial outcomes from 2019 and 2020. We take great pride in maintaining a diverse portfolio of revenue streams and keeping a low ratio of administrative and fundraising expenses compared to program expenses. We are dedicated to being an exceptional steward of your kindness and proud to maintain a Silver Seal of Transparency from independent charity watchdog GuideStar and an Encompass rating of 100 from Charity Navigator. If you are interested in a more detailed view of our financials, we encourage you to view them at www.guidestar.org

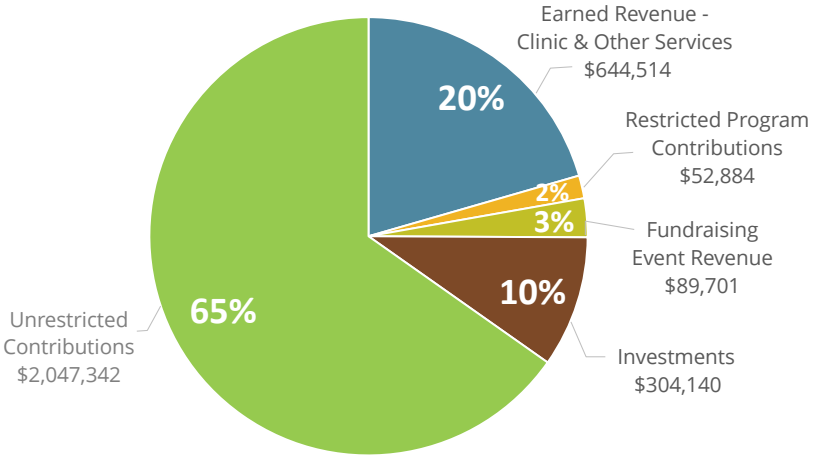
2019 Revenue = $1,901,060



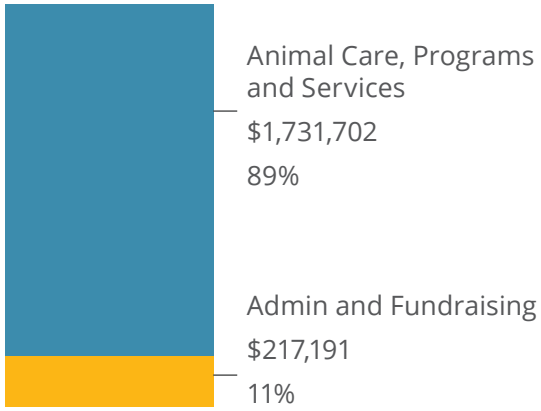
2019 Expenses = $1,720,151



2020 Revenue = $3,138,582



2020 Expenses = $1,948,893



HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT

Your gift to the Tulsa SPCA is an investment in the animals and their human companions we serve.
On average, $0.88 of every dollar donated to us is spent directly on animal care and related programs.
All funds are spent serving Tulsa animals within our local communities.

Board of Directors

2019 and 2020

Jene Harmon, President
Manager of Client Services
Webco Industries

Charlotte Henry, Vice President
Senior Audit Manager
Stanfield + Odell

Susan Rogers, Treasurer
Retired
VP of Internal Audit, Williams

Jessica Luong, Secretary
Program Director
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Brooke Ellis
Portfolio Manager
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Ashley Gable, M.D.
Pathologist, Tulsa Medical Lab
Chief of Staff, St Francis Hospital

Mary Green
President
K9 Manners & More

Wendy Gregory (Served in 2019)
Financial Advisor

Katie Hood
Sales & Marketing Manager
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Suzanne Lucenta
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Faith Orlowski
Attorney
Moyers Martin LLP

Bri Segovia
Property Manager
Ruffin Properties

Andrea Maduro (Served in 2020)
Art Director
Byers Creative

If you are interested in getting involved in the Tulsa SPCA's Board of Directors or a working committee, please visit www.tulsaspca.org/board-of-directors/

Donor Spotlight: Robb & Darla Vanskike

Almost the same day we met Robb and Darla Vanskike, they were showering us with gifts. Darla saw something she liked in us at a public event (are we blushing?), and became a volunteer and foster parent. It's been a meaningful relationship ever since.

"Once we got past the pain of losing our beloved tuxedo cat Miss Boomer in 2018, we decided we wanted to pay forward the love and laughter she had given us for 13 years," Darla said. "The Tulsa SPCA looked like a fun and active organization, so we got on board!"

The Vanskikes have donated a Big Cedar Lodge vacation stay 4 different times for Tulsa SPCA fundraising event live auctions. And, thanks to their generosity, the Tulsa SPCA logo adorns a car that raced at the Chili Bowl Nationals in Tulsa and all over the country in the POWRi (Performance Open Wheeled Racing) National Midget Series.

We're extremely grateful for all the support Robb and Darla offer us. They encourage others to give generously to the Tulsa SPCA. It is for this reason, and many others, that Darla is the recipient of the Milly Finley Volunteer of the Year Award for 2020!

"It has been an amazing and rewarding adventure working with the staff and wonderful pets at the Tulsa SPCA," Darla said. "When we first started volunteering, I had no idea how far these people would go to help pets in need. They go way beyond anything I could have imagined, and my husband and I are very happy to be a part of it."

The Vanskikes go way beyond our imagination with their generosity, too!

Visit tulsaspca.org/donate to learn how you can support the Tulsa SPCA. Or email giving@tulsaspca.org to speak with our VP of Philanthropy and Communications about ways to give.

TULSA SPCA

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