



AUGUST 2025 | safehavenforcats.org

THE *scratching* POST

Learn more about
our cover model
on page 4!



CELEBRATING
& SHARING OUR
LIFESAVING
SUCCESS!



Just for you!

Adoptions **pg 4** Impact **pg 6** SAFE Care Clinic **pg 7**

ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



NOTES FROM OUR OUTGOING & INCOMING BOARD CHAIRS

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with deep gratitude for the compassion and generosity you've shown to SAFE Haven for Cats. Thanks to your support, this year we provided loving care and second chances to hundreds of cats and kittens, and performed thousands of affordable spay/neuter surgeries to help control overpopulation in our community. Your belief in our mission has allowed our team to turn your dollars into miracles for countless cats: aiding in the restoration of eyesight to previously blind Pine Nut; helping little Corazón regain the use of her back legs; turning a weak and listless Xena Warrior Princess into an absolute spitfire of a kitten.

We are proud of the progress we've made together, and confident in the continued leadership of our incoming Chair, Cathy, who shares our deep commitment to our mission to use no-kill principles and education to save cats' lives through rescue, adoption, spay/neuter services and community

programs. With your continued partnership, we're ready to meet any challenges ahead with determination and heart. Together, we can build an even stronger safety net for vulnerable animals in our corner of the world.

We invite you to be part of the change in our community, whether through donations, volunteering, or simply spreading the word about SAFE Haven. Your continued investment of time, resources, and trust ensures that we can keep providing life-saving services and compassionate care. On behalf of the entire board, staff, and every whiskered friend you've helped, thank you for being part of our team.

Warmly,

Mary Ka Powers,
outgoing Board Chair

Cathy Easop,
incoming Board Chair



Corazón



Xena Warrior Princess



Pine Nut





volunteers

33

Volunteers per week

Leading by Example: our Cleaning Captains and Litterbox Captain, who lead our Shelter and Litterbox Cleaning shifts, volunteered an average of **88 hours each!**

10,640

Volunteer hours

That's the equivalent of five full time staff members each week! -or- equal to 443 days

Longest serving volunteer:
30+ years by Sparky M.

Most shifts worked:
152 by Mark M.

The Triangle Nonprofit and Volunteer Leadership Center recognized the dedication of one of our volunteers, Lynda!



Lynda Harris
VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK
SAFE HAVEN FOR CATS



99% SAVE RATE + AWARD

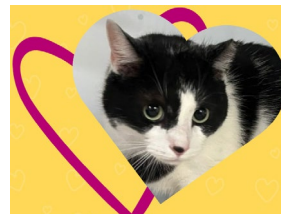


We're proud to have been recognized by Best Friends Animal Society for achieving no-kill status in 2024. While the award recognizes those who maintain a 90% save rate, SAFE Haven went above and beyond with a **99% save rate!**

Thank you to the adopters, fosters, volunteers, donors, partners, and everyone who believes cats deserve a chance. Here's to saving more lives together!

17K KITTY HIGHLIGHT

With the recent adoption of Gustavo, a sweet five year old former stray, SAFE Haven passed a milestone: 17,000 adoptions in its 31 years! With an estimated 100,000 pet cats in Raleigh, 1 in every 6 cats came from SAFE over the past three decades.



ROAD TRIP!

In August of last year, one of our kitties who was adopted 8 years ago wound up at a shelter in Florida. The shelter wanted to know - did we want our cat back? Without hesitation, our answer was YES! Luckily, the Florida shelter was already arranging a bus ride to bring cats to shelters up North, so they added SAFE Haven as a stop. As an extra thank you for bringing our guy all the way to our door, we agreed to take in a few more cats from the bus. We're so grateful to the Florida municipal shelter for giving us a call and for the Hope on Wheels program for lending a helping hand!

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN CRISIS

In the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, we worked as part of a coalition to find placement for kitties in the affected areas. We took in 29 cats from 3 shelters/rescues in Western NC, and 25 cats from 2 shelters/rescues in Florida. Shoutout to our incredible Transport Volunteers who drove hours away to pick up these kitties from the operation hubs!



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Maryse

In September, we received a transfer request from one of our partner shelters. They let us know they had a kitty with a severe wound they were unable to treat, and if we couldn't take her in, they would have to euthanize her. We hopped in the car and went to pick up **Maryse**. One-year-old **Maryse** had an old abscess on her haunches that had gone untreated for so long it had ulcerated. The damage was extensive. Our team didn't want her to be in pain for even one moment longer, so even though our Clinic Team had the day off, they came in to get her into surgery right away. The surgery was a success! **Maryse** was moved into an enclosure to recover. One of our volunteers, who routinely helps care for the kitties in the recovery area, formed a special bond with her. Once **Maryse** was healed and ready to go home, that volunteer adopted her after eight weeks of recovery at SAFE Haven!

Icon

In March, our team received an unusual call. A group from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, contacted us to report that **Icon**, a kitty adopted from us last year, had turned up at their shelter. They hadn't been able to reach his adopter and reached out to us, as we were listed as the secondary contact on his microchip. Our commitment to our cats doesn't end once they leave our shelter. Our Adoption Services Manager immediately began calling, texting, and emailing the adopter, while we made alternative plans to fly **Icon** back to us if we couldn't make contact—but luckily, we got through! When we finally reached him, **Icon's** adopter was in tears. He had recently moved to Baton Rouge, and in the chaos of the move, **Icon** had dashed outside. He'd been desperately trying to find him, but hadn't had any luck. In the adopter's words, "He is my son!" The pair were happily reunited shortly afterward!

Tuppy

One-year-old **Tuppy** came to us in late January, referred by the former practice manager of one of our Clinic Team members. They suspected that this kitty had ingested a foreign object and were unable to provide the care he needed. We brought him in, took an X-ray, and sure enough, there was a mystery item inside poor little **Tuppy**! Not only that, but he also had a broken hip. In a series of surgeries, our team removed the foreign object—a plastic glove!—and repaired his hip.

Tuppy recovered in foster care with one of our team members, who did rehab work with him to get his hip back in tip-top shape. She made sure to keep any glove-like snacks well out of his reach!

Tuppy made a full recovery and was adopted exactly six months to the day after he was first brought to us.



YOU WERE *champions*

for over 1,100 cats in our shelter this past year and they are so grateful for your support!



Jack Be Little

Jack Be Little was just a baby when he and his brother, Jack Be Quick, came to SAFE Haven. The pair had run up to a woman who was out for a walk, and she immediately knew they needed help. **Jack Be Little** had a severe injury to his paw, with damaged tendons and a serious infection. But thanks to the hard work of our Cat Care team, six weeks later, this brave little guy was ready to go home! The only sign of his previous injury is a missing toe, but it doesn't slow him down one bit. **Jack Be Little** got a second chance at SAFE Haven thanks to your support!

Future Black Hole was pretty scared when he first came to us. He was stressed out and spent all day hiding under his bed. One of our dedicated volunteers, Lynda, spent lots of time in his enclosure, giving him the love and understanding he needed. Slowly, he started to come out of his shell and became all about pets and rubbing against people- he even tries to climb onto your shoulder! Not long after, his perfect companion walked into the shelter, and they found each other. We're so grateful to have been his soft place to land while he got back on his feet!



Disco, Cha-Cha, & Tango

In mid-June, these three siblings danced their way into our shelter- and into everyone's hearts. Originally brought in as strays by one of our dedicated partners, we knew these tiny babes would find the perfect match quickly-but we didn't expect this twist! A couple came in looking for one kitty and ended up falling in love with the entire trio. Now, these lovebugs are as happy as can be in their new home. In the words of their new family:

"I couldn't imagine having three. Now I can't imagine not having my three. We're a family for sure."



*Future Black
Hole*

by the numbers

ADOPTION & INTAKE



1,139

Total Adoptions

24 days

Average Length of Stay



8.5 days

Time on the Adoption Floor



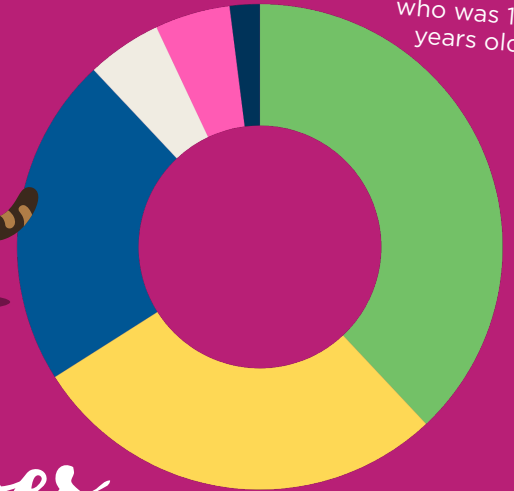
15,536 pounds

of cat and dog food in 725 pick up appointments through the Pet Food Pantry

Intake by age range

Neonate	22	Young Adult	315
Kitten	434	Adult	52
Teenager	249	Senior	57

Including 1 "Super Senior" who was 16.5 years old!



where your money goes

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



- Programs **84%**
- Administration **4%**
- Fundraising **12%**



18.4 lb Polar Bear!

Largest cat



PROGRAM EXPENSES INCLUDED:

\$88,355 on outside veterinary care when our shelter kitties had extraordinary medical challenges such as orthopaedic surgery, or diagnostic imaging

\$43,857 on food so the shelter kitties were well-nourished according to their specific needs

\$74,961 on surgical supplies for our SAFE Care Spay & Neuter Clinic

\$15,485 on lab work so we could determine whether the shelter cats had underlying health issues that could be treated with medication (e.g., thyroid problems) or required additional diagnostics (low red blood cell count)



WE THANK ALL OF YOU!

Visit
safehavenforcats.org
or scan the code to
learn more about what
you can do to help this
year and beyond.



clinic news

The team at SAFE Spay/Neuter Clinic did some amazing work this past year!


**6,825 TOTAL
SURGERIES**

INCLUDING:



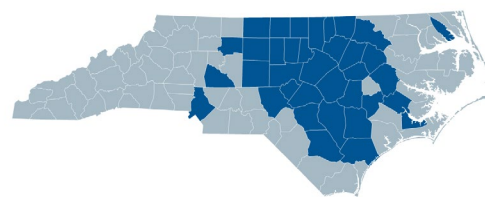
1,589 Feral/
Community Cats



137 Dogs



impact



36 Counties + **8**
Out-of-State Counties!

18 Rescue Partners

556 Clients Paid \$0

MICRO/VAX CLINIC STATS:

OCTOBER 2024 STATS:

- 85 CATS AND DOGS SEEN
- 17 MICROCHIPS
- 71 RABIES VACCINATIONS
- 18 FVRCP
- 13 DHPP

JUNE 2025 STATS:

- CATS SEEN: 144
- DOGS SEEN: 70
- RABIES VACCINES GIVEN: 156
- FVRCP VACCINE FOR CATS GIVEN: 101
- FVRCP VACCINE FOR DOGS GIVEN: 57
- MICROCHIPS GIVEN: 48



2025 Tuxedo Cat Ball

Tails of Triumph



together,
WE DID a lot of good THIS YEAR!

