

2022 IMPACT REPORT

Dear friends,

Since I started as the Executive Director in August of 2022, my time with Asheville Humane Society has been a whirlwind of meeting new people, fostering dogs, forming connections, and expanding my knowledge of best animal welfare practices from our experts. Through it all, one thing has become clear: your commitment to the compassionate care of the animals in our community.

Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." The services that Asheville Humane Society provides simply would not be possible without your support.

I invite you to look at this 2022 Impact Report to glimpse the good work we've done together. The new year brings exciting additions to our multifaceted approach to caring for animals within our community. In addition to looking forward to assisting more animals than ever before, we are dramatically expanding our efforts to help families in distress keep the pets they love.

We are so grateful to have your kindness, love of animals, and support, and I am certain that Asheville Humane Society will continue to see the greatness of our community through your compassionate actions.

With thanks and warmth,

Jeff Hassel

Executive Director



Providing individualized care



Our organization offers a wide range of comprehensive services that address the holistic needs of pets. We go beyond our walls to help create a more humane community for pets and the people who love them, and our commitment to this mission is apparent in everything we do.

- Shelter
- Adoption
- Life-saving medical care
- Enrichment
- Lost and found
- Behavior support
- Low-cost pet vaccines
- Rehoming assistance
- Free pet food
- Spay/neuter vouchers
- Free pet supplies
- Low-cost microchips
- End-of-life services
- Veterinary care vouchers
- Community canine training

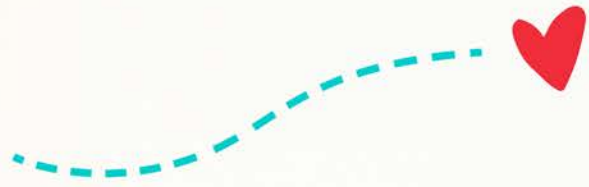


We cared for 27
different species in
2022!

**Your support creates
new beginnings for
the most vulnerable
animals in our
community.**



3,337



ANIMALS ADOPTED



ADOPT ED

**Sometimes, it takes
a village.**



Ed is a lovable ball of energy, always ready for adventure and excitement. He has an infectious love for life, and anyone who meets him can't help but smile. We loved Ed's playful nature but knew he needed some help before being adopted. Our behavior team patiently worked with Ed, teaching him the social norms of how to behave around people and other dogs.

Despite his exuberance for life, Ed was with Asheville Humane Society for a staggering sixteen months. He watched his friends come and go, each finding a loving forever home while he waited. And waited...

Despite our efforts to find a family for him, potential adopters had only wanted to meet him a handful of times. But we knew the right person was out there who would love him for all his quirks and boundless energy.

Our volunteer and board member, Dawn, spent many hours with Ed, helping him become the dog she knew he could be. She saw something special in him - he had a big heart and lots of love to give - and finally, Dawn and her husband decided to adopt him. Ed is now thriving in his new home, chasing after toys and getting all the belly rubs and cuddles he wants.

Looking back, it is hard to believe that Ed spent so long waiting for his forever home. But it was all worth it to know he finally found the love and family he deserved. For anyone looking for a loyal and loving companion, Ed is proof that sometimes, the best things in life are worth waiting for.



**Ed was spoiled with toys
last Christmas!**

KEEPING PETS WITH THEIR PEOPLE

For many, pets are more than just animals - they are beloved companions and family members.



4,986

animals in the community
received services

75,888

pounds of pet food
provided to people and
pets in need

Studies have shown that owning a pet can positively impact mental health by reducing stress and providing companionship. However, challenges such as financial constraints or changes in housing situations often make it difficult for people to care for their pets.

When pet owners cannot keep their pets, it can lead to a range of adverse outcomes for both the pet and the owner. For the pet, it can mean the loss of their home, companionship, and stability. For the owner, it can lead to feelings of guilt and grief and the loss of a source of emotional support.

By providing vet vouchers, pet supplies, spay/neuter surgeries, low-cost pet care clinics, behavioral support, and more, we help pet owners overcome challenges, keep their pets, and promote stronger, healthier communities.

5,957

animal care supplies provided

122

services provided to families to avoid penalties or the removal of pets

737

lives saved or improved through veterinary assistance vouchers

1,763

spay/neuter vouchers provided

5,862

helpline calls answered

1,411

days of emergency boarding provided to 32 pets



A woman contacted our helpline, sounding completely defeated. Despite dealing with the challenges of a new baby, a job loss, and multiple pets to care for, the woman had the courage to ask for help. She told us she could not afford cat food and that her cats hadn't eaten for several days; by this point, one had lost significant weight. As a result, she was considering surrendering them to the shelter. When our staff member heard her story, she knew they needed help - and fast.

After a lengthy conversation, we delivered pet food to her doorstep the next day. Her relief was palpable as she was finally able to feed her hungry cats. But we didn't stop there; our staff member listened to her concerns about one of her dogs and immediately started working on finding a suitable home for the animal. Finding a new, loving home for the dog didn't take long, and our team helped ensure it would be cared for and loved. In addition, we provided spay and neuter vouchers for the other pets to help prevent unwanted litters and reduce the burden of pet care expenses.



**In unexpected circumstances,
our compassionate community
is here to bring hope and help.**



“

*Thank you so, so much.
I didn't even know I
could get help like this.*

Finding a new leash on life

Our behavior support program helps dogs that have suffered from abuse, neglect, minimal socialization, or other traumatic experiences. The goal is to help the dog overcome emotional and behavioral issues so they can quickly adjust to a new, safe, and loving home environment.

Our experts apply training, socialization, and behavior modification techniques that allow the dog to learn positive behaviors and overcome their past traumas.

This process can take weeks, or even months, as each dog has a unique personality, experiences, and challenges to overcome. But, it is always worth it to contribute to a healthier and safer community of animals in Asheville.

We work with hundreds of dogs to help them trust, love and enjoy life again before they move on to fulfilling lives with their new families.

Our behavior staff also work to prevent boredom and reduce the stress of animals in our care through various enrichment activities such as:

- Hikes
- Dog playgroups
- Puzzles, games, and toys
- Training exercises
- Off-campus adventures
- Exposure to new experiences

These activities help our animals express natural behaviors and provide an important lifeline while they wait for new homes.



Meet Tempest

Tempest came in with his sibling as a stray, and our behavior team conducted a full assessment to learn what kind of home would be a good fit for them.

Tempest was tremendously fearful and highly avoidant of human touch or interaction. When it became clear he needed help, our team developed a treatment program to bring him out of his shell. Our team first worked on gaining his trust through treats, his favorite being bits of cheese.

After gathering the courage to approach the entrance to his kennel, Tempest began to make progress as he acclimated to wearing and walking on a leash. However, he was still afraid of being pet or other human interaction.



Tempest began attending playgroup with other dogs three times a week and started to build confidence as he saw how other dogs behaved. Slowly, he came out of his shell and began approaching people on his own. Our behaviorists saw this and knew he was ready to find a new loving family. An interested adopter came in to meet Tempest, and our team was excited to introduce him! We ensured his new family knew his history and how to help him continue his journey. They understood what was involved and could not wait to take Tempest home.

Through innovative techniques, a little patience, and a lot of love, Tempest is now living a happy and healthy life!

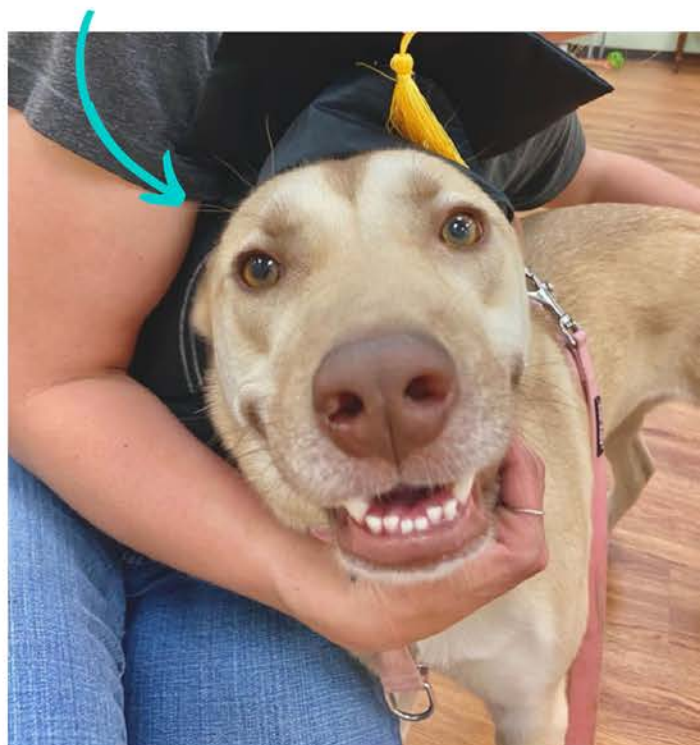
Community Training

Kahlua graduating from our Canine Manners course

We offer canine training courses to the public to help dog owners establish a clear line of communication between themselves and their dogs.

Our courses are an effective way to prevent the surrender of dogs to the shelter. Many are surrendered due to frustrating behavioral issues, which can often be corrected through training. We give owners the skills to keep their dogs safe, prevent and address challenging behaviors, and strengthen their bonds.

By promoting positive behavior, our canine courses can help keep dogs in loving homes where they are happy and well-adjusted.



OUR COURSES

Currently, we offer three comprehensive, six-week courses at our training space in River Ridge Marketplace.



PUPPY KINDERGARTEN

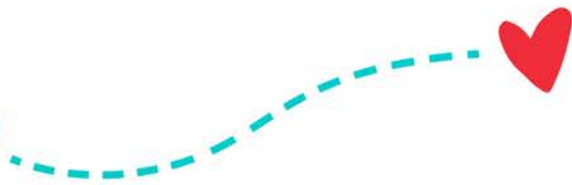


CANINE MANNERS



BEYOND BASIC MANNERS

872



LOST PETS
REUNITED WITH
THEIR FAMILIES





MEET RUSS

Volunteer Russ Thacher is amazing! He and his wife, Marcia, are incredible and have fostered countless animals for us since 2014. They help us with special events and vaccine clinics by assisting with setting up, and much more. On top of that generosity, Russ is our on-call "handyman." We call, and Russ magically shows up to fix anything and everything.



working together

Our volunteers are critical in helping the animals in our care, assisting with everything from cleaning kennels, providing enrichment, folding laundry, and setting up events. We couldn't do this work without them.

473 volunteers donated

 **90,113 hours**



Relocation Program



When two senior cats were brought to the shelter by their owner, who could no longer care for them, it seemed like an uncertain end to their story. But these cats had a guardian angel in the form of their former foster parent who had fostered them 10 years earlier, never forgot them, and still held them close to her heart.

The foster parent, who now lives in Michigan, reached out to us with a request: could we help transport the cats closer to her so she could adopt them and give them the loving home they deserved? As bonded senior cats, the thought of them needing to wait to find a new home was unbearable to her.

Our Relocation Manager reached out to volunteers to see if any were traveling to Michigan for the holidays. Our volunteer Mary answered the call, eager to be a part of something so special. She even stayed in a hotel with the cats overnight, ensuring their comfort and safety throughout the journey.

After ten long years, the cats were reunited with their former foster parent, and they now live happily in Michigan. This heartwarming story reminds us that no matter how much time may pass, the bonds we form with our animal companions can never truly be broken.



How does our relocation program work?

447

**lives saved through
relocation**

1

A rescue partner is identified and confirms they have space to take in adoptable animals.

2

Our Relocation Manager works with the partner to discuss what types of animals they have space for and any preferences. Our staff then identifies adoptable animals to send.

3

Staff then ensures all transport animals have the required medical workups to travel. All the animals are loaded and ready to travel first class on the transport day. We make sure they are as comfortable as possible!



At just 16 days old, Caspian and Stone were brought in after being found in a car engine. Unfortunately, they weren't discovered until after the car was running. The driver immediately rushed them to us for emergency care. Caspian and Stone received medical treatment and needed to be bottle-fed around the clock. Thankfully, one of our amazing foster homes gave them all the TLC they needed to grow up healthy and strong. These two are now thriving in a forever home!



Caspian and Stone



Foster Program

Our fosters provide a safe, nurturing environment in their home for animals who need extra attention, such as those recovering from surgery, neonates, those in need of other medical care, or animals who need socializing. It allows them to receive the attention they need before they are adopted. The dedication and compassion of our fosters make a significant difference in the lives of these animals.

1,263

animals fostered by 406
local families

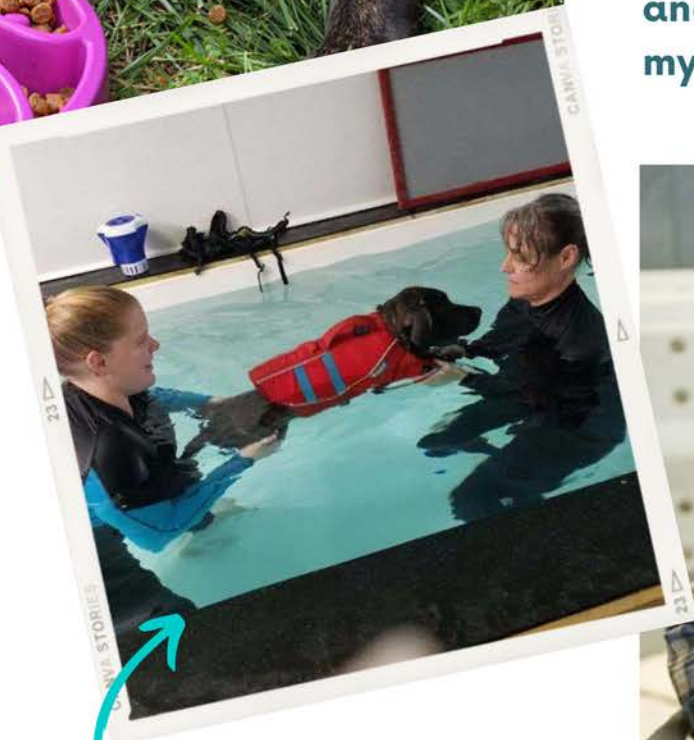
A puppy was abandoned behind an East Asheville store. He was tied to a tree with a "free" sign.



One of our staff members found him and brought him to the shelter, and we named him Bandit. It was apparent that something was very wrong with his hind limbs. He had a sideways, lumbering gait, and his left knee stuck out at an odd angle as he'd bunny hop around. His best chance to live a pain-free life was surgery and months of physical therapy. We knew it would be expensive, but worth it! We hoped that one day, Bandit would be able to run, jump and play like any other pup.

His surgery was successful! The team at WagHab developed a comprehensive rehabilitation plan for him. It wasn't easy; Bandit went through months of laser therapy, targeted exercises, massages, and hydrotherapy. He was so determined and eager through it all! Around Christmas, we received a message from his foster dad.

"I figure it's time. I'd like to give Bandit the gift of a forever home. Thanks for the chance and time to try and convince myself I'm just a foster parent."



Hydrotherapy at WagHab



Thrift Store

Our thrift store experienced incredible growth in 2022. Back in 2021, we earned \$493,700. But in 2022, we shattered all expectations by earning over \$650,000! The thrift store team has worked hard to build a welcoming and fun community for our shoppers and volunteers and that effort has paid off for pets in need. We have dozens of customers who visit regularly and the shop is always bustling with activity.



“I just love coming here. This place is my therapy!”

We get all kinds of shoppers at the thrift store!

There's so much to see! ✨



HOME DECOR



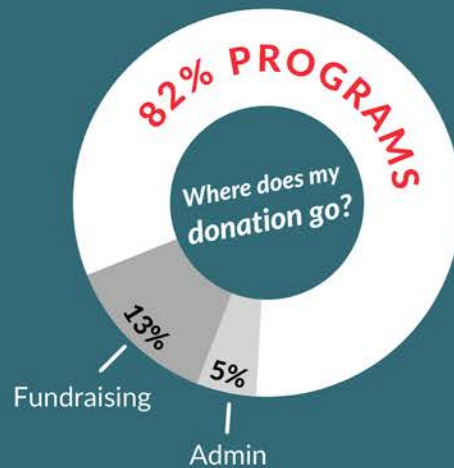
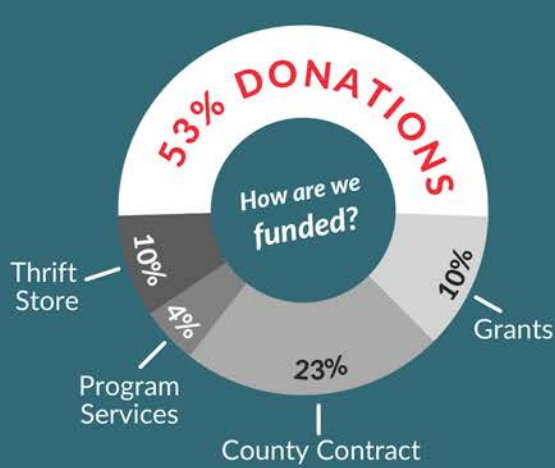
APPAREL & ACCESSORIES



...AND SO MUCH MORE!

We make every dollar count.

We prioritize efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency, so that every dollar donated makes a meaningful difference for the animals in our community.



Asheville Humane has earned the highest rating from Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator.



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