

STRAY CAT ALLIANCE

2021

# IMPACT REPORT

Building Community • Saving Lives Together

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# MISSION

Building a No-Kill Nation, One Stray at a Time

Stray Cat Alliance educates and empowers communities to advocate for every cat's right to be safe, healthy, and valued.





# VISION

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Stray Cat Alliance envisions a time when all cats are valued and safe whether in homes or communities, and when shelters serve only as temporary safe havens or resource centers.







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# CONTACT

Stray Cat Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Tax ID # 95-4787231



## Directors and Officers

- Courtney Fern, Director
- Aaron Leider, Treasurer
- Betsy Liley, Board Chair
- Christi Metropole, President & CEO
- Jon Pelletier, Director
- Katherine Ruffner, MD, Director
- Kaye Zigrang, Director

Dear Friends,

In 2020, after 11 years of stagnation and lost opportunity, the City of Los Angeles reversed the injunction on trap/neuter/return (TNR) and declared TNR to be the best method to improve cat welfare and manage community cat populations. We had persevered throughout those 11 years to increase access to spay and neuter services, and connect with community cat caregivers to promote the health and wellbeing of community cats. In 2020, Los Angeles approved the Citywide Cat Program, a commitment to both people and cats to support the spay/neuter of 20,000 community cats per year for the next 30 years. Stray Cat Alliance was tapped as an integral partner in the success of the Citywide Cat Program.

With the injunction lifted, in 2021 we implemented our Safe at Home program as we originally envisioned - advocating for teen and adult cats as well as unweaned kittens and fully promoting and participating in TNR within the community. In addition to the 690 0-8 week old kittens we diverted from shelter intake, we saved another 91 teen/adult cats, preventing them from ever entering a municipal shelter. We gathered information from community members approaching the shelter to surrender cats and kittens to pinpoint locations in need of TNR and spay/neuter services. Beginning in July 2021, we trapped, neutered and returned 224 cats.

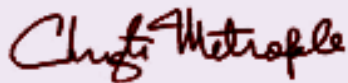
This year, we concluded our seven-year partnership with Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) focused on Return to Home for Community Cats. Through that partnership, we improved the live outcome rate in the city shelter and created positive outcomes for community cats. Prior to our involvement, the average save rate for cats and kittens in Long Beach was approximately 18%. Through our collaboration with LBACS, we were able to reach a 97% save rate in 2020! LBACS has now taken full ownership of the program, creating alternate outcomes for community cats who otherwise would not make it out of the shelter through adoption.

After years of planning, in 2019 we began building an internal medical clinic at Stray Cat Alliance to provide access to timely care for cats and kittens and do more with the money you so generously contribute. With no signs of the nationwide shortage of veterinary staff abating, we knew that adding spay/neuter and medical and wellness capacity required we take immediate action. In 2021, we grew our capacity to perform complicated surgeries in our clinic on site, including orthopedic surgeries. We added six new staff members to our medical team and had four veterinarians caring for the thousands of cats and kittens we pulled from the shelters and rescued from the streets.

Overall, the cost to care for a cat decreased by 24% at a time when veterinary costs have skyrocketed and waiting lists are legion. We couldn't have supported our record number of cats this past year without this in-house unit.

In gratitude for all you have done to help save the vulnerable cats and kittens we serve, we proudly present Stray Cat Alliance's 2021 Impact Report. The accomplishments described herein are the result of YOUR hard work and giving spirit. These pages celebrate you and your lifesaving impact.

Meow,



Christi Metropole  
President and CEO

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK IN 2021

# PROGRAMS AND IMPACT

1,931  
CATS  
TAKEN INTO  
FOSTER  
CARE



781  
KITTENS  
AND CATS  
SAVED  
THROUGH  
SAFE  
AT HOME

1,491  
CATS  
ADOPTED



17,173 CATS  
HELPED VIA  
HOTLINE



4,125 PEOPLE  
HELPED VIA  
HOTLINE



1,491 CATS  
RTH'ED/TNR'ED



2,500  
CATS  
SPAYED/NEUTERED



# CARE FOR COMMUNITY CATS

Our Care for Community Cats program includes advocacy, trap/neuter/return (TNR), a hotline, trap depots, medical support, and community outreach. This program is at the root of empowering community members to make a difference in the lives of their neighborhood cats.

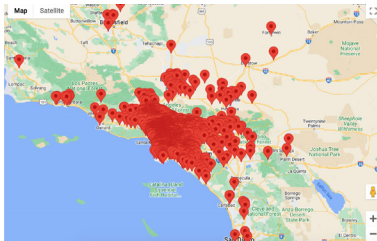
**In 2021**, our nationwide hotline provided **vital resources for 4,125 individuals** who had questions regarding community cats, **resulting in 17,173 cats and kittens being helped.**

The hotline is key to Stray Cat Alliance's outreach to and support of the community. This public service provides resources for all aspects of cat care including:

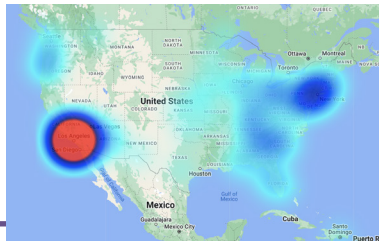
- Education
- Advocacy
- TNR Training
- Adoptions
- Rescue
- and Medical Assistance



## LOCATION OF HOTLINE CONTACTS:



Southern California



Nationwide



### PENGUIN

A good samaritan found Penguin in a car engine and made sure that he got to the right place: Stray Cat Alliance! He had an injured front paw, fractured skull and was temporarily blind as a result of head trauma.

After weeks in the hospital and lots of love, Penguin pulled through and recovered. Now he is living his best life off the streets and in his forever home!



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Stray Cat Alliance helped Kelsey S., a local community cat caregiver, to provide essential services to the cats in her community. Below she shares her experience:



*"Stray Cat Alliance's trap, neuter and return program has been such a blessing. I recently started working with low income seniors, and the colony of cats outside of their housing was out of control. They were not only unhealthy, having litter after litter, and a nuisance, but they were also injured, sick, and starving. After adopting and fixing one of the strays in the colony, I was at the end of my rope trying to figure out how to get the rest immediate medical care and spay/neuter services. It was overwhelming, and most programs were on pause due to the pandemic. It didn't help that shelters are overflowing, and I don't want to bring animals anywhere they may be unnecessarily euthanized.*

*Luckily I happened upon Stray Cat Alliance's information table outside of the Chesterfield Square shelter, and they were able to help me. It has been such a relief to know that the animals I bring in receive the medical care that they so desperately need. They've helped stitch up open wounds, treat upper respiratory infections, treat lice and fleas, and stop the kitten season cycle. They provide so much help, and guidance, as well as traps. With their help I was able to get 11 cats the services they need and stop hundreds of kittens being born on the streets. The services they provide are invaluable, and knowing that these cats are so much healthier and happier when they are returned to their colonies, has brought me and the senior residents so much peace of mind."*

- Kelsey S



## LITTLE PATCHES



In August, Los Angeles Animal Services' Lifesaving Liaison reached out to Stray Cat Alliance about a small five week-old kitten named Little Patches. She had come to the shelter as a stray with a condition called microphthalmia (the eyeballs are smaller than normal). We weren't sure if she could see at all.

We found Little Patches a foster where she thrived. She ran around and played all day. She also loved being really close to her foster parent's face for a good sniff! Because she couldn't see, she learned how to reverse and climb off furniture. She grew more confident every day in her foster's care.

A few months later Little Patches found her forever home, where she quickly made herself comfortable. She started playing with her new sister and chasing after her. Priti D., Little Patches adopter, told us: "I am so thankful for getting hooked up with 'LP.' She is just a little angel and my cat Beaux and I look forward to learning a lot from her ♥"

## PANCAKE



Stray Cat Alliance was alerted to an urgent bottle baby at the shelter. Bottle babies are always urgent because they require feeding and care every two hours. Pancake went into foster, but quickly demonstrated some healthcare challenges.

Pancake started losing weight and couldn't keep food down. She was diagnosed with megaesophagus, a condition that causes the esophagus to dilate and lose motility. This can cause food and liquid to accumulate in the esophagus and have difficulty getting into the stomach.

Pancake underwent surgery to correct the megaesophagus and had a temporary feeding tube to make sure she received nutrition. Pancake fully recovered and was able to eat on her own again. Happy and healthy, she was adopted on first birthday!



# SAFE AT HOME

**Unweaned, newborn kittens make up an estimated 20% - 40% of cats impounded in municipal shelters, and they are most often killed because of their age.**

If they require bottle feeding and are not fostered immediately, they are euthanized. Safe at Home empowers community members to serve as foster caregivers, playing an integral part in saving lives. At the South Los Angeles Shelter, Stray Cat Alliance community engagement counselors intercept people at the shelter, offering resources and support for them to serve as fosters. We provide training on all aspects of care, from bottle feeding to adoption, and supply all food and medical treatment. Safe at Home staff do all they can to ensure the most vulnerable kittens find safety regardless of their condition. **In 2021, we saved the lives of 690 kittens and ensured an additional 91 kittens and cats over 8 weeks old never entered the shelter.**



# RETURN TO HOME FOR COMMUNITY CATS

Return to Home (RTH) for Community Cats is an innovative, lifesaving program that significantly reduces the death rate of healthy community cats brought into shelters.

**Approximately 10% - 20% of cats impounded in shelters are community cats, who would live happily in their communities if they were left alone.**

Through RTH, healthy community cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, given medical care, and microchipped, then returned to their community homes. Ongoing education and outreach teaches the public about the importance of spay/neuter of all cats – whether they are community or owned.





## RETURN TO HOME IN ACTION



In 2021, Stray Cat Alliance completed a seven-year collaboration with Long Beach Animal Care Services. Through education, activism, and advocacy, we ensured that **2,800 healthy stray cats surrendered to Long Beach Animal Care Services were spayed/neutered and returned to their community homes.**

We trapped, spayed/neutered, and returned an additional **3,117** healthy cats to their community caregivers over those seven years. **These efforts resulted in a 43% reduction in intake and a 97% live save rate for cats** - a monumental achievement in Southern California.

Long Beach Animal Care Services has continued this crucial work on its own. During our tenure, we implemented practices essential to the survival of community cats and ushered in a culture change at Long Beach Animal Care Services that will have long-lasting effects. We trained a full-time animal control officer to replace our outgoing team and educated rescue and shelter personnel and community members on Return to Home programs and why they should advocate for Return to Home. Stray Cat Alliance will carry the lessons learned from this collaboration forward as we bring our lifesaving programs to cities and counties across Southern California.

# ADOPTIONS

Our Adoptions program provides foster and forever homes to cats and kittens found on the streets through TNR or impounded at a shelter. Each cat and kitten who travels through Stray Cat Alliance's programs receives veterinary care, including spay/neuter, vaccines, testing, check-ups, and microchips.

**In 2021, we helped 1,491 cats and kittens reach a permanent, loving adoptive home.**





## LIL MORRIS



We saved Lil Morris at just 10 weeks old. He was having labored breathing at the shelter due to a diaphragmatic hernia after being hit by a car. A diaphragmatic hernia is when the diaphragm (the muscular partition that separates the abdomen and the chest) is torn, causing abdominal contents such as the stomach, liver, and intestines to enter the chest cavity and compress the lungs, making it hard to breath.

We transported Lil Morris to a specialty hospital where he received urgent surgery. Lil Morris' surgery was successful and he went into the perfect foster home which soon became his forever home. His favorite thing to do is to sit in his human's lap and meow.

## KETCHUP

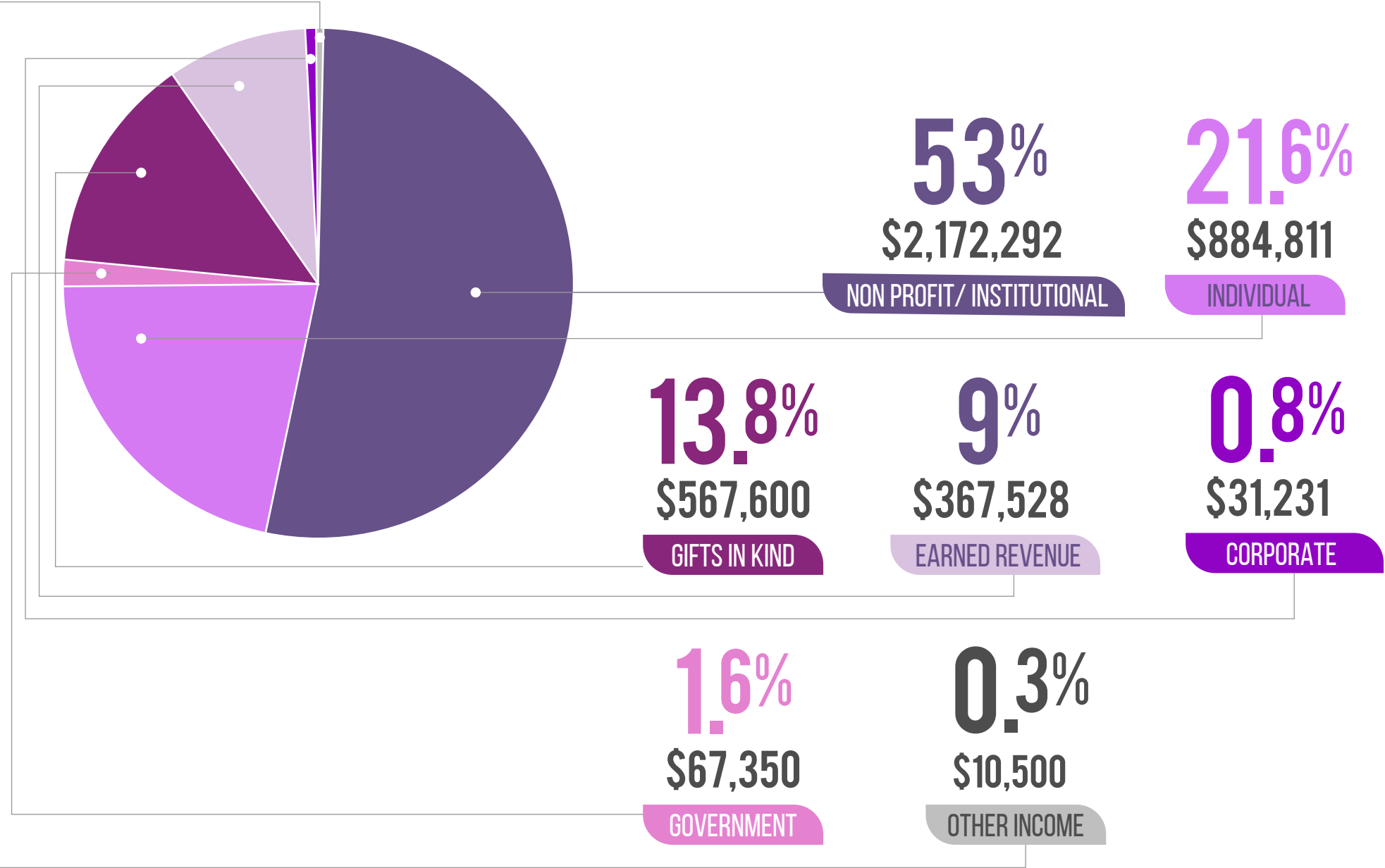
Ketchup is a sweet girl who we rescued from the shelter. She was suffering from a severe case of mange, which we successfully treated in our medical clinic. Her transformation is incredible! As her fur grew back, she turned into a beauty queen. She is a confident and happy girl once again. It took only a few weeks for Ketchup to go from the city shelter to her forever home. Now she spends her days enjoying treats, snuggling in her cat bed, and hanging out with her human.





# FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Stray Cat Alliance's supporters contributed **\$4.1 million in 2021**



**32%**  
**\$1,136,342**  
CARE FOR  
COMMUNITY CATS

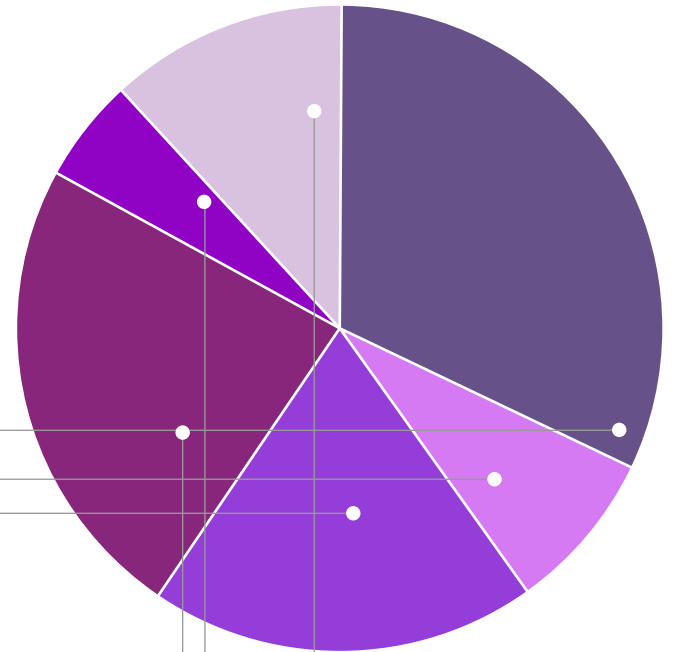
**8.1%**  
**\$287,755**  
RETURN TO HOME FOR  
COMMUNITY CATS

**19.4%**  
**\$689,552**  
SAFE AT HOME

**23.5%**  
**\$832,705**  
ADOPTIONS

**5.3%**  
**\$186,840**  
MANAGEMENT  
AND GENERAL

**11.7%**  
**\$415,653**  
FUNDRAISING



EXPENSE

TOTAL

**\$3,548,847** **100%**

Thank you to the nearly 7,000 individuals, corporations, foundations, and government entities who donated to Stray Cat Alliance in 2021 and to the thousands of people who volunteered as fosters, transporters, and the angels who helped at Jefferson Park. Together, we made 2021 a record year for kittens and cats!

The countless allies, like you, who supported the work of Stray Cat Alliance in 2021 have made it possible to save thousands of cats and kittens, to advance new policy, and to further our mission: to educate and empower communities to advocate for every cat's right to be safe, healthy and valued.

**Supporters make an impact with their time and financial contributions.**

*"Where to begin when speaking of such a wonderful organization and every single staff member that helps out whether it's with a simple check up or advice with any issues or concerns I may have with my fosters. I honestly never thought I would be fostering and I'm loving every moment of it. Even through the ups and downs. The TNR program has made me such a big believer in why we should spay as many street fur babies as possible. It's just for the best. One of many ways to save innocent fur babies. I'm so grateful for this program for helping me spay my community cats." Gaby C.*

*"We got our amazing Clyde from Stray Cat Alliance. He was probably hit by a car, and had broken bones and still has some mild facial paralysis. We adopted him as an adult cat. He can play fetch, is the boss of our dogs, and generally is just the best cat ever. We love him completely. I love the purpose of Stray Cat Alliance, and I love that my baby got a second chance so that we can spoil him forever." Emily M.*

*"I think it speaks volumes that I've enjoyed my time with this organization so much that after hearing about them from my roommate (who used to foster for them), I've adopted, volunteered, and fostered all with Stray Cat Alliance. There's so many cats and cat non-profits in LA that honestly it seems overwhelming at times. Stray Cat Alliance does their best to partner with and help out other LA organizations, even though they're relatively small in comparison! They're a small but mighty organization." Gabrielle X.*



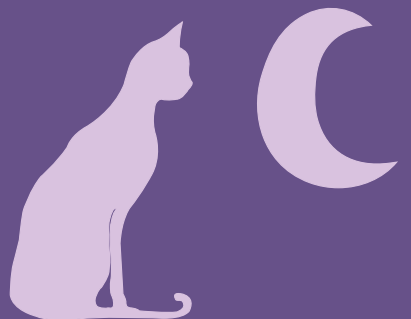
THANK  
YOU



## THE FACES OF



# LIFESAVING



STRAY CAT ALLIANCE

# GET INVOLVED

To Volunteer, email  
[volunteers@straycatalliance.org](mailto:volunteers@straycatalliance.org)  
or visit  
[straycatalliance.org/get-involved/volunteers](https://straycatalliance.org/get-involved/volunteers)

To Donate, email  
[Development@straycatalliance.org](mailto:Development@straycatalliance.org)  
or visit  
[straycatalliance.org/donate](https://straycatalliance.org/donate)

To Adopt, visit  
[straycatalliance.org/adopt-and-foster](https://straycatalliance.org/adopt-and-foster)

