A MESSAGE FROM MATT

Friends,

Even as the pandemic continued to challenge people and animals in 2021, those obstacles strengthened our resolve to persevere, adapt, and—in some cases—evolve our work to save and protect the most vulnerable dogs, cats, horses, and farm animals.

We also implemented more ways to expand animal protections, including innovations in animal cruelty and disaster response, law enforcement and shelter training, and the sharing of research and insight.

As you’ll read in this 2021 Annual Report, our work throughout the year included rescuing thousands of animals from scenes of large-scale cruelty and natural disasters, relocating more than 34,000 animals to areas of great adoption opportunity, spaying and neutering more than 63,000 animals across the country, addressing pet owner toxicity concerns involving more than 400,000 animals, and assisting more than 58,000 animals with basic and preventative care at our service facilities in New York, Los Angeles, and Miami, including a new Community Veterinary Clinic in Brooklyn, New York.

Leveraging data, expertise, strategy, and creativity, more than 1,000 ASPCA staffers worked diligently in direct care and critical support roles to achieve these successes—often with strategic partners—and they have my deepest appreciation.

If the stories, data, and details in this report inspire you to come to the rescue of an animal or shelter in need, thank you. Animals in need deserve all the help we can provide.

Thank you for your support,

Matt Bershadker,
President & CEO
Mission Statement

Our mission, as stated by ASPCA founder Henry Bergh in 1866, is “to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States.”

WE ARE THEIR VOICE

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) was the first animal welfare organization established in North America and today serves as one of the nation’s leading voices for vulnerable and victimized animals. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation with more than two million supporters nationwide, the ASPCA is committed to preventing cruelty to dogs, cats, equines, and farm animals throughout the United States.

The ASPCA assists animals in need through direct medical care, on-the-ground disaster and cruelty interventions, behavioral rehabilitation, animal placement, legal and legislative advocacy, and the advancement of the sheltering and veterinary community through research, training, and resources.

For more information, visit aspca.org and follow the ASPCA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
RESCUING AND BRINGING CARE TO ANIMALS IN CRISIS

The ASPCA routinely responds to requests from law enforcement, emergency management authorities, and animal welfare agencies to assist with emergencies that threaten the lives and welfare of animals across the country. These emergencies include natural disasters—such as hurricanes and wildfires—and large-scale cases of animal cruelty or severe neglect.

We support these animals and communities with a wide range of responsive actions and services, including land and water rescue operations, emergency sheltering, relocation services, and medical and behavioral treatment. ASPCA experts also conduct evidence collection and forensics exams to provide investigative support in criminal cases to ensure the best legal outcomes for rescued animals.

In 2021, the ASPCA helped nearly 3,000 animals in crisis across the country. These animals included:

- **More than 60 dogs** from a hoarding situation in North Carolina, where animals of varying breeds, sizes, and ages were found inside a shack filled with mud and animal waste
- **More than 500 dogs** living in horrific conditions at multiple Iowa properties
- **More than 80 dogs** from a brutal dogfighting operation spanning New York and several other states
- **Nearly 100 neglected dogs** found on a dilapidated property in Ohio, some of whom had severe untreated medical conditions
- **More than 20 animals** living in filthy, unsafe conditions in Missouri
- **Nearly 30 dogs** living in overcrowded and substandard conditions at a property in Alabama
- **More than 2,000 animals** endangered by natural disasters in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Washington

More than 350 homeless rescued animals were transported to our ASPCA Cruelty Recovery Center (CRC) in Ohio, where they received daily care, enrichment, and medical and behavioral treatment that prepared them for adoption. Treating animals at the CRC also allows local shelters to focus their lifesaving work, space, and resources on other community animals in need.
The Behavioral Rehabilitation Center

The ASPCA Behavioral Rehabilitation Center (BRC) in Weaverville, North Carolina, treats extremely fearful dogs, primarily those who have experienced cruelty and neglect. These dogs undergo an intensive rehabilitation program designed to reduce their fear, improve their overall well-being, and prepare them for adoptive homes.

We share the learnings and research developed through this work with shelters and rescue organizations across the country through publications, trainings, studies, and other resources of the ASPCA Learning Lab and ASPCApro, the ASPCA informational and training website for animal welfare professionals.

Since its inception in 2013, the BRC has graduated more than 500 dogs.

The ASPCA Learning Lab

The ASPCA Learning Lab offers in-person and virtual training and resources to shelters across the country through publications, trainings, studies, and other resources of the ASPCA Learning Lab and ASPCApro, the ASPCA informational and training website for animal welfare professionals.

We also provide behavior rehabilitation information, research, and resources through ASPCApro.org, which has become a leading resource for animal welfare practitioners, including shelter staff and veterinary professionals.

Improving and Opening New Behavioral Rehabilitation Facilities

In 2021, we announced that we would move our Cruelty Recovery Center in Columbus, Ohio, to a larger building in 2022 and open a Recovery & Rehabilitation Center in Pawling, New York, by 2024.

Both sites will significantly improve the quality of life and adoption prospects for some of the country’s most vulnerable animals, including those rescued from hoarding situations, dogfighting, puppy mills, cruelty, and natural disasters.

Along with the BRC, the CRC and R&R Center will integrate advanced behavioral healthcare into all aspects of ASPCA shelter operations, including critical medical care, daily care, and enrichment.

Giving Vulnerable and Victimized Animals SECOND CHANCES THROUGH BEHAVIORAL REHABILITATION

More and more animals are entering shelters with medical problems, behavior problems, or both. Without treatment, adoption isn’t possible for many of these animals, which is why the ASPCA is leading efforts to develop effective behavior interventions for dogs and cats in our care. Our work includes establishing facilities that provide rehabilitation and care for behaviorally-challenged animals, conducting research to discover new ways to effectively and efficiently resolve behavior problems, and offering in-person and online learning opportunities for shelter professionals to help them prioritize integrated animal care and rehabilitate shelter animals facing behavioral barriers to adoption.

Working alongside law enforcement and animal welfare professionals to assist with cases of cruelty and neglect is a key part of the ASPCA’s work to improve the lives of animals in communities nationwide.

- Teresa Ladner, Senior Director of Investigations for the ASPCA Legal Advocacy & Investigations team

On July 31, a two-year-old pit bull mix named Butters was one of more than 80 dogs rescued by the ASPCA from an alleged interstate dogfighting ring across Long Island, New York City, and several nearby states. The Suffolk County Acting Police Commissioner called the case one of the most disturbing he had witnessed in his 36 years with the department.

Many of the dogs, including Butters, were transported to the ASPCA Cruelty Recovery Center in Ohio, where they spent several months recovering and receiving care. Butters suffered from leg injuries and was easily frightened, but the staff at the CRC slowly increased Butters’ activity and helped her rebuild trust. Butters recovered and was eventually adopted by a family in Omaha, Nebraska.

Read Butters’ story at aspca.org/ARButters
TALIA

Talia was rescued alongside 90 other dogs from a dilapidated, single-wide trailer in Shadyside, Ohio in May 2021. Like many animals who come from situations of neglect or severe overcrowding, Talia was very fearful of humans, which significantly challenged her adoption chances.

Talia was transferred to the BRC, where behavioral specialists worked closely with her. She was also assisted by helper dogs, who can often give fearful animals the confidence and reinforcement they need to interact successfully with people and their environment. By the end of her treatment, Talia had overcome her fear and was eventually adopted into a loving home with the help of a partner shelter in South Carolina.

Read Talia's story at aspca.org/ARTalia

- Matt Bershadker,
  President & CEO of the ASPCA

The behavioral and psychological impact of cruelty and neglect on dogs and cats is both devastating and complex, and the ASPCA is responding by expanding our programs to address behavior-related barriers to adoption. These specialized programs will help us learn how to be even more effective in preparing these vulnerable animals for life in a loving home, and we look forward to sharing our learnings with the animal welfare field.

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Los Angeles Programs

In Los Angeles, the ASPCA plays a major role in the health and welfare of vulnerable animals, including running a spay/neuter clinic that helps the City of Los Angeles animal shelter and local pet owners, as well as mobile spay/neuter units that also provide services to pets in need.

We also help care for kittens under eight weeks old—an extremely vulnerable population—through the ASPCA L.A. Kitten Foster Program. In 2021, our facility and mobile programs in Los Angeles assisted more than 22,000 animals overall, including nearly 1,400 cats fostered through our Kitten Foster Program.

The Miami Community Veterinary Clinic

In Miami, we operate a Community Veterinary Clinic in Liberty City that addresses the pressing pet care needs of that critically underserved community. In 2021, this CVC assisted more than 6,500 local animals.

The ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance

A pioneer in the development and advance of high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter techniques, the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance (ASNA) in Asheville, North Carolina, supports the Western North Carolina community by spaying and neutering more than 25,000 animals—including pets as well as shelter cats and dogs—at its facility annually. Read details about ASNA’s spay/neuter work in 2021 in the “Advancing the Practice and Impact of Spay/Neuter Surgery” section of this Annual Report.

ADVANCING THE PRACTICE AND IMPACT OF SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY

Accessible and affordable spay/neuter services are essential to significantly decreasing the number of animals entering shelters and improving the health and welfare of animals and community animal populations. A national leader in the development and practice of high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter surgeries through the work of the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance in North Carolina, the ASPCA also provides high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter services in critically underserved communities in New York City, Los Angeles, and Miami. In 2021, we provided spay/neuter surgeries to more than 63,000 animals in our focus areas.

The ASPCA also conducts in-person and video training programs that share spay/neuter surgery innovations and insight with veterinary clinics and professionals throughout the country.

The ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance

In 2021, the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance (ASNA) performed more than 20,000 surgeries for dogs and cats belonging to area residents and shelters and rescues in the region.

ASNA is also a nationally renowned spay/neuter teaching operation, with training programs available for veterinary students, licensed veterinarians, and medical teams. Since its inception in 1994, ASNA has trained 190 spay/neuter clinics and more than 7,700 vets and vet students.
New York City Services
As part of our overall service to New York City residents, animals, and shelters, we performed nearly 26,000 spay/neuter surgeries at ASPCA Community Veterinary Clinics and facilities in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens, as well as at ASPCA mobile spay/neuter clinics.

Los Angeles Services
The ASPCA Los Angeles program performed more than 16,900 spay/neuter surgeries in 2021, including more than 10,000 cats and dogs spayed/neutered aboard ASPCA mobile clinics and nearly 7,000 owned pets, foster kittens, and shelter and rescue animals at our South L.A. Clinic. In October, we performed our 100,000th spay/neuter surgery in Los Angeles since coming there in 2014. This service includes spay/neuter support to low-income pet owners, community cats, and animals at Los Angeles Animal Services and County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care & Control Animal Care Centers. Our spay/neuter support to local agencies helps their shelter animals go home faster, enabling the shelters to help more animals in need.

Miami Services
The ASPCA Miami Community Veterinary Clinic performed nearly 840 spay/neuter surgeries, more than half of which were for clients in Liberty City, where the CVC is situated, and where we’re focusing this effort to address the pressing pet care needs of this critically underserved community. In addition to spay/neuter services, the ASPCA also provides accessible and affordable basic and preventive veterinary care to Miami-Dade County cats and dogs.

It’s well-known that spay/neuter surgeries can significantly reduce shelter intake, but the key to elevating that lifesaving impact is making those services accessible and affordable to pet owners and rescue organizations who desperately need them.

- Matt Bershadker, President & CEO of the ASPCA

Given L.A.’s substantial dog and cat population, there is a continuous need for spay/neuter services. To meet that challenge, our program brings free services to pet owners in areas with the greatest need. Meeting owners where they are removes several obstacles to accessing spay/neuter resources, including affordability and lack of transportation.

- Jennifer Anderson, Senior Director of Operations for ASPCA
Los Angeles Community Medicine
MOVING ANIMALS FROM PERIL TO OPPORTUNITY

Through Animal Relocation

The ASPCA Relocation Program transports at-risk homeless animals by land and air from areas of very high shelter intake, large-scale cruelty cases, and natural disasters to places where they are more likely to be adopted. Putting these animals on a faster path to new homes also reduces pressure at partner shelters where the animals originated, giving those organizations space and resources to create and strengthen animal welfare programs in their communities.

In 2021, the ASPCA Animal Relocation Program completed more than 1,000 animal transport trips, relocating more than 34,500 animals (roughly 24,700 dogs and 9,800 cats). These lifesaving journeys included 895 ground transports and 132 air transports. Since starting our relocation program in 2014, we have transported more than 200,000 companion animals on over 7,800 trips throughout the country, making the ASPCA the largest transporter of shelter dogs and cats for adoption in the U.S.

Relocation works best when it’s not just an occasional movement of animals—it’s a consistent flow. The shelters can rely on the transport coming and know what animals will be going and what space will be made available for them. Animal relocation is an essential tool to free up resources so those shelters can better serve the animals in their communities.

- Karen Walsh, Senior Director, ASPCA Animal Relocation Program

MILA AND AVA

Mila, a 10-month-old German Shepherd mix, was found in Washington County by two college students who went door to door trying to find an owner but had no luck. They contacted Washington County Animal Shelter in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where she quickly became a favorite among staff. Mila and Ava, a five-month-old Husky/German Shepherd mix also found as a stray, were placed on a Nancy Silverman Rescue Ride vehicle and journeyed from Arkansas to Great Plains SPCA in Merriam, Kansas. Mila was adopted within two weeks, and Ava quickly found a home with a canine sibling.

Read their story at aspca.org/ARMila
TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WELL-ROUNDED VETERINARIANS

Across the U.S., the ASPCA employs hundreds of veterinarians and veterinary technicians at stationary and mobile clinics, temporary shelters, forensic labs, and remotely in consultative roles with animal shelters and veterinary practices. Utilizing this broad collection of expertise and experience, the ASPCA provides a range of professional training experiences for veterinary professionals and aspiring professionals seeking continuing education.

As a national veterinary shortage continues to grow, these ASPCA programs help attract, retain, and advance the careers of veterinary professionals in a way that uniquely prepares them to serve the animal welfare needs of their communities.

Among the professional veterinary training experiences provided by the ASPCA:

- ASPCA Veterinary Forensic Science Center Externship (Gainesville, FL)
- ASPCA Veterinary Forensic Medicine Externship (New York City, NY)
- ASPCA Animal Hospital Veterinary Externship (New York City, NY)
- ASPCA Adoption Center Externship (New York City, NY)
- ASPCA Community Medicine Externship (Brooklyn, NY)
- ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance Veterinary Student Externship (Asheville, NC)
- ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Externship (Remote)
- ASPCA Veterinary Technician Internship (New York City, NY)
- ASPCA Julie Morris Shelter Medicine Residency (New York City, NY)
- ASPCA Animal Hospital Small Animal Rotating Internship (New York City, NY)
- ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance Veterinarian Training Program (Asheville, NC)
- ASPCA Animal Hospital Access to Vet Care Fellowship (New York City, NY)
Clockwise from top left: The Cruelty Recovery Center’s Niki Curnell, Manager, Medical Support, with Rhene, a dog transported out of harm’s way from Hurricane Ida to a temporary shelter in Knoxville, TN; Brynáe Riggins, Manager, Federal Legislation, with a dog rescued from an Iowa puppy mill case; and Kylie McGarity, Equine Training & Behavior Specialist, at the Equine Transition and Adoption Center in Oklahoma with Micah, an 18-year-old gelding.
Clockwise from top left: Lauren Zverina, Director, Shelter Behavior Science, with a beagle mix puppy rescued from a Shadyside, Ohio hoarding case; a neonate kitten gets some TLC at the ASPCA Kitten Nursery in Manhattan; clients pick up their pets after a mobile spay/neuter event at the Basil Behagan Playground in the Bronx; Cricket Allen, Behavior Rehabilitation Center Specialist, with Abbie, a recent graduate of the BRC in Weaverville, N.C.; and National Response Team’s Ryan McFadden, Manager, Animal Rescue Technician, delivering dog food to shelters in Kentucky after flooding.
ENHANCING PROTECTIONS FOR ANIMALS THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

ASPCA Government Relations and Legal Advocacy & Investigation work keeps intense pressure on federal, state, and local governments to ensure the enactment of compassionate policies that stop animal cruelty and protect dogs, cats, horses, and farm animals from suffering.

Keeping People and Pets Together in Communities Across the Country

In New York City, the ASPCA helped enact two laws to expand co-sheltering options so people experiencing homelessness and their pets can stay together safely. These laws require the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Department of Social Services to develop a plan to accommodate pets of individuals and families who are homeless by providing pet-friendly shelters and DHS to provide a monthly report on the placement or disposition of pets who belong to people who enter homeless shelters. The compilation of this data will facilitate efforts to increase the availability of pet-friendly services for people who are homeless.

In California, we helped secure $10 million in the state budget to fund the Pet Assistance Support (PAS) Program, which allows homeless shelters to make accommodations for individuals with pets.

In Missouri, the ASPCA successfully lobbied for the enactment of a new law establishing pet protective orders, ensuring that pets are legally able to be included when survivors of domestic violence or other threats require such orders.

The ASPCA also continues to be a leader in the fight to end breed discrimination in communities across the country. In 2021, the ASPCA helped overturn a 30-year-old law in Overland Park, Kansas, which barred residents from owning pit-bull-type dogs and joined a coalition of organizations that successfully stopped an anti-pit bull ordinance in Stoneville, North Carolina.

After identifying needed reforms in the insurance industry, the ASPCA spearheaded work that led to the introduction and passage of first-in-the-nation legislation in Nevada and New York to prohibit property insurance companies from denying homeowners’ coverage for families with specific breeds of dogs.

At the federal level, the ASPCA worked closely with legislators to introduce the Pets Belong With Families Act, which would prevent discrimination against certain breeds of dogs and discourage size and weight-based restrictions on pets in government-owned Public Housing.

Working to End Puppy Mills

In Florida, the ASPCA took action to ensure that the Boards of Commissioners of Orange and Manatee Counties, Florida, passed ordinances to shut down the puppy mill pipeline into those communities by ending the sale of cats and dogs in retail stores.

At the federal level, the ASPCA filed a lawsuit against the USDA for abandoning its responsibility to enforce the Animal Welfare Act (AWA)—a federal law passed more than 50 years ago to ensure the humane treatment and care of animals used for research and many commercial purposes, including dogs bred for the pet trade. Approximately 2,000 commercial dog breeders and dealers are licensed by the USDA and house roughly 250,000 dogs and puppies, most of whom are sold at pet stores or over the Internet. The AWA directs the USDA to license and inspect these businesses to ensure they provide minimum standards of care and enforce the law when the agency identifies violations. Despite this Congressional mandate, the USDA pursued policies that allow violations to go unreported and unpunished and has not imposed a single penalty against a dog dealer since 2017. Our lawsuit seeks to compel the USDA to record all observed violations of the AWA and end its policies of non-enforcement.

In December, following years of ASPCA leadership and background working on puppy mill enforcement efforts, a bipartisan group of federal lawmakers introduced Goldie’s Act, which requires meaningful penalties for AWA violations uncovered by USDA inspectors and ensures they share findings of cruelty and neglect with local law enforcement.

This legislation was introduced on the heels of a disturbing case in Iowa, where the ASPCA assisted the Animal Rescue League of Iowa (ARL) with the rescue of more than 500 dogs and puppies living in horrific conditions at multiple properties operated by a USDA-licensed dog breeder.
ENHANCING PROTECTIONS FOR ANIMALS THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY (continued)

Supporting Laws and Policies that Help Dogs, Farm Animals, and Horses

The ASPCA led efforts to secure crucial protections for animals and increased funding for critical animal welfare programs in the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations bills to fund the USDA and the Interior Department. These provisions protect dogs in puppy mills, end horse slaughter and prevent horse cruelty, expand resources for survivors of domestic violence and their pets, support farmers who use higher-welfare standards, and fund a humane wild horse and burro management plan that includes fertility control implementation, which the ASPCA strongly supports as the most protective management approach to ensure wild horses and burros will be able to safely roam our public lands.

In 2021, the ASPCA supported the reintroduction of federal legislation to enhance protections for farm animals. The Farm System Reform Act will help create a more humane food system by moving away from destructive severe confinement practices as well as support farmers transitioning toward higher welfare conditions. Through strong advocacy, the ASPCA secured additional sponsors for this legislation and raised its profile with dozens of letters to editors and meetings between volunteers and their representatives.

The ASPCA’s longstanding efforts to end horse slaughter enabled the successful passage of a ban on horse slaughter in the House of Representatives as well as the introduction of the Save America’s Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act in Congress, helping build strong cosponsor support for the legislation and providing critical national data and background research to demonstrate the urgency and justification for prohibiting horse slaughter.

Case Study: SHAKE A PAW

In December 2021, the ASPCA joined New York Attorney General Letitia James at a press conference announcing a lawsuit against Shake A Paw, a retail pet shop that sells puppies, for unlawfully and deceptively selling sick puppies to unsuspecting consumers at its two Long Island locations.

Like other U.S. puppy-selling pet stores, Shake A Paw buys puppies from out-of-state commercial breeding facilities where dogs are often kept in cruel conditions. The ASPCA helped the New York State Attorney General’s office understand the connection between Shake A Paw and an Iowa-based USDA licensed breeder forced to surrender over 500 dogs after the USDA documented more than 200 violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act on his properties.
STOPPING ANIMAL CRUELTY THROUGH THE ASPCA-NYPD PARTNERSHIP

The ASPCA-NYPD Partnership launched citywide in 2014, with the NYPD responding to all animal cruelty complaints in the five boroughs and the ASPCA providing direct care for animal victims, as well as conducting law enforcement training and providing veterinary forensic and legal support. In addition, our ASPCA Community Engagement work follows up on NYPD referrals to help keep pets safely in their homes and prevent animal suffering. The ASPCA and NYPD also participate collaboratively in ASPCA-led animal cruelty trainings and community events throughout the city to deliver services that enable residents to keep and care for their pets.

Stopping Cruelty

From its citywide inception in 2014 through the end of 2021, the ASPCA and NYPD—working together—rescued and treated more than 3,350 vulnerable animals. Overall in 2021, nearly 400 dogs and cats were seized by the NYPD and treated by ASPCA veterinary and behavior professionals. In addition, the NYPD made 101 animal cruelty arrests, and ASPCA Veterinary Forensic Science teams in NYC and Gainesville, FL, took on more than 300 cases to support animal cruelty prosecutions.

NYPD Trainings

Throughout the year, the ASPCA trained hundreds of police officers in animal cruelty case tactics and partnered with the NYPD on community events. The ASPCA also conducted more than 50 virtual and in-person animal cruelty trainings for thousands of NYPD officers, detectives, and prosecutors.

Community Events

In 2021, the ASPCA collaborated with the NYPD on more than 20 events throughout all five boroughs that typically provided a range of services and resources for pets and their owners, including vaccines and grooming services, dog and cat pet food, and other pet care support and information.

TOMATO

Tomato was one of 30 animals, including 10 cats, seized by the ASPCA from a residence in Queens on November 26, 2021. During her initial examination, Tomato was found to be underweight with a dirty hair coat. She also had an ear infection and ear mites that caused intense pain and itchiness and neurological issues stemming from her untreated ear infection. Tomato walked in an uncoordinated gait on wobbly legs, and her injured left eye needed to be removed by veterinarians.

Tomato’s many medical issues were treated by ASPCA veterinarians, and her sweet demeanor and playful interactions with other cats helped fast-track her into a foster home. She was adopted the following year by a young woman who is overjoyed by her very special special-needs cat.

Read Tomato’s Story at aspca.org/ARTomato

Upon our arrival on the scene, it was clear these animals were living in terrible conditions and needed to be immediately rescued and brought to safety. We’re grateful to the NYPD for continuing to prioritize animal welfare in NYC and are proud to play a role in providing these dogs with the care they so badly need and deserve.

- Howard Lawrence,
Vice President of ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement, speaking about the October 2021 rescue of 21 dogs from a cruelty situation in Brooklyn, New York
INCREASING EQUINE ADOPTION

While a significant number of dog and cat owners obtain their pets through adoption, that option is often not as accessible within the horse community, leaving horses vulnerable. Addressing this challenge head-on, the ASPCA Equine Welfare program works on several projects to help at-risk horses, including the ASPCA Right Horse program, which facilitates collaborations between the equine industry and animal welfare professionals to find more homes and careers for horses in transition. In 2021, ASPCA Right Horse Partners placed nearly 3,600 horses in adoptive homes.

Adopt a Horse Month

In May 2021, the ASPCA Equine Welfare program led the first-ever ASPCA Adopt a Horse Month, a nationwide effort to increase and celebrate equine adoption. More than 150 equine shelters and rescues participated in the event, which educates and encourages the public to adopt their next horse using myrighthorse.org, the ASPCA’s online adoption platform for equines.

Using insight from our dog-and-cat animal relocation efforts, we also launched the ASPCA Horse Adoption Express, an equine transport program to move horses between ASPCA Right Horse Partner shelters and rescues to increase their adoption prospects. In 2021, the program transported 188 horses to adoption partners and trainers to help them find adoptive homes more efficiently.

Regional Support Center Pilot

Meanwhile, the ASPCA Regional Support Center pilot in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, offered a range of assistance for locally owned equines—including subsidized veterinary services and safe rehoming for horses, mules, and donkeys who could no longer be cared for—assisting more than 100 horses in 2021. Many owners reported seeking help for their horses for a year or longer before finding support here, highlighting the critical need for more safety-net services for horses.

The Equine Transition and Adoption Center

By the end of the year, the Regional Support Center evolved into the Equine Transition and Adoption Center pilot, which expanded its reach to supporting horses throughout the state of Oklahoma. The program continues to provide affordable veterinary care for struggling horse owners and judgment-free support to help horses transition to their next home.

At the facility, a training and behavior specialist works with relinquished horses to prepare them for new homes while an adoption specialist explores marketing methods for finding each horse a loving home. Most importantly, we share what we learn from the program with the equine welfare community to elevate and expand equine adoption efforts nationwide, sharply focusing on increasing the adoption of horses who have traditionally been harder to place.

The ASPCA Horse Adoption Express is one example of how we’re innovating and adapting learning from successful dog and cat adoption approaches to create new opportunities for horses.

- Christie Schulte Kappert, Senior Director, ASPCA Equine Welfare

STEADY

More Than Steady, known around the barn as “Steady,” started his journey on Florida racetracks. Once he was too old to race, his caretakers retired him responsibly and wanted to ensure that he’d have a healthy and safe transition into a new career. Michigan-based Horses’ Haven, an ASPCA Right Horse Adoption Partner, took in Steady and, within weeks, found him a home with an Animal Control Officer who loves Steady’s calm demeanor and enjoys taking him on trail rides.

Read Steady’s Story at aspca.org/ARSteady
PROTECTING ANIMALS ABUSED IN CRUEL FARMING SYSTEMS

In 2021, the ASPCA continued securing corporate and legislative policies that improve the lives of farm animals and encouraging consumer action and awareness that make the process of food production in America more compassionate and humane.

To coincide with the fifth anniversary of its Shop With Your Heart program, the ASPCA launched a new tool called the Shop With Your Heart Grocery List—a searchable directory of welfare-certified animal products and plant-based alternatives.

Throughout the year, we also secured 36 new food industry commitments to meaningfully improve millions of farm animals’ welfare, including from The Honest Kitchen, a major pet food company, and Giant Eagle, the eleventh-largest supermarket chain in the country.

The ASPCA also granted funds to the Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) for the fourth year in a row to help farmers meet the standards of meaningful animal welfare certification programs. More than 32,000 farm animals have benefited from FACT grants supported by the ASPCA since 2017.

To encourage greater transparency and dialogue around the connections between factory farming and a multitude of social justice issues, the ASPCA and Vermont Law School (VLS) launched a new Animal Law Media Fellowship to offer journalists the opportunity to attend a VLS summer course focusing on the intersections of farm animal welfare, factory farming, media, and the law.

We designed the ASPCA’s Shop With Your Heart program to help consumers—no matter what they eat—make choices that show animal agriculture there is no place for animal cruelty in our food system.

- Daisy Freund, Vice President, ASPCA Farm Animal Welfare

HELPING PETS EXPOSED TO POISONS

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) operates a 24-hour-a-day, 365-days-a-year hotline that serves as a critical and trusted resource for pet owners and veterinarians nationwide in keeping animals safe and healthy.

Expert staff at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center answered nearly 416,000 calls in 2021, assisting more than 401,000 animals with a wide range of toxicity concerns.

The only poison control center in the country focused exclusively on animals, the APCC is staffed by nearly 200 veterinary professionals, including board-certified toxicologists, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary assistants. The APCC uses a proprietary database that contains data from over four million recorded cases since the program’s inception more than 45 years ago.

Gumbo, a one-year-old dachshund mix, was among the animals helped by the APCC in 2021. Gumbo chewed through a bag of various medications, including acetaminophen, a common household over-the-counter medication that can cause life-threatening issues when ingested by pets. After a month of treatments and ongoing collaboration between APCC and his veterinarians, Gumbo fully recovered, illustrating this service’s enormous impact on owners, animals, and veterinarians.

Read Gumbo’s Story at aspca.org/ARGumbo
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ASPCA President & CEO

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Chief Legal Officer

Cheryl Bucci  
Senior Vice President,  
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