



TORONTO
CAT
RESCUE

2020 Annual Report

2020

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Our mission is

to rescue & find homes
for abandoned, sick or injured cats
from situations of abuse, neglect
or imminent euthanasia.

Toronto Cat Rescue is a registered, no-kill charity.

Our vision is for Toronto to be a city in which no adoptable cat is killed and rescue organizations such as Toronto Cat Rescue are no longer needed.



Our team in 2020

Board of Directors

Paul Butler
Director

Tony Schoeppich
Director

Suzanne Patterson
Director

Bev Stone
Director

Sarah May
Chair

Kyra Augustyn
Vice-Chair

Arlene Thomas
Secretary

Kevin Wilson
Treasurer

Staff

Belinda Vandersluis
Executive Director

Irene Bianchi
Finance Assistant

Nalini Ramroop
Operations Manager

Suzanne Vokey
Administrative Assistant

Key Objectives

1

Provide high quality care and treatment of cats in our care.

2

Build and maintain a sustainable foundation to meet current and future needs.

3

Be accountable, transparent, and act with integrity in all aspects of our work.

Message from Board Chair

What a challenging and strange year 2020 was for Toronto Cat Rescue and the world. I hope you are all staying safe and well as we continue on through this global pandemic.

When COVID-19 first shut down most of the country last year, including our stores and vet clinics, TCR's volunteers stepped up. Our foster homes kept our rescue operations running by welcoming cats in need into their homes. With so many working from home, there's no doubt many foster cats greatly benefited from the new normal we all experienced.

Although adoptions were temporarily put on hold at the height of COVID-19, again our staff and volunteers organized an amazing pivot that allowed us to do

contact-less adoptions in just a matter of weeks. I am so inspired to see how many adoptions we still had this year despite how differently we had to work. This is the power of our volunteers.

We are an organization that is made strong through our large and diverse volunteer base.

You all have such an incredible array of skills, experience, and interests that you bring to Toronto Cat Rescue. While we may be in the business of saving cats, people are what make our work possible. Our diversity is our strength, and the Board of Directors this year recognized that we had to commit the organization to an equity, diversity and inclusion journey - one that

was thoughtful and inclusive in its process and that adopted an anti-racism and anti-oppression framework. This work has just begun through the formation of a committee made up of board members, staff, and volunteers from a number of areas of the organization. Keep an eye out through 2021 on the organization's journey and ways you can get involved.



Thank You

Sarah May



An unprecedented year.

Letter from the Executive Director

It's an understatement to say that 2020 was an unprecedented year. Everything started just fine. January to March 2020 were a bit quiet, as usual, prior to kitten season. Early in the year is our time to get our major projects started or completed before things get really busy from April to December. Late February is also a good time for a bit of a vacation away from Canadian winters, I went to Mexico! When I got back, the world had changed. Toronto Cat Rescue had to get ready for the global pandemic. We are privileged to have over 1,000 amazing volunteers from incredibly diverse backgrounds. A group of specialists got together and created our COVID plan which allowed us to keep saving cats throughout

the entire year. We saved over 2,500 cats, when shelters and veterinary clinics were working from emergency protocols, and I am so proud of all the volunteers and staff and allied professionals who made this happen. All of our activities are remote and online, including adoptions, fundraising, volunteer responsibilities like adopter support and data reporting.

2020 had its ups and downs, we supported each other through thick and thin. I never thought in March 2020 that we'd still be facing the challenges of a relentless virus in March 2021. Our work of rescuing and finding homes for sick, abandoned, or injured cats from situations of abuse, neglect or imminent euthanasia continues,

despite the global pandemic. We've proven to ourselves that we are strong and committed and can solve any problem thrown our way. This report outlines some of our achievements in 2020.

Our biggest achievement is having a year of empathy, compassion, dedication and support for our volunteers, adopters, donors, staff, board members, partners, and colleagues. Way to go Toronto Cat Rescue!

Belinda

Belinda Vandersluis



Operational Updates

Operations

2020, the year of the pandemic, was quite the roller coaster. Shelter doors closed to regular intake and spay/neuter surgeries were deemed non-essential. Colony caretakers dreaded the fate of the feral population without TNR. Pet owners being hospitalized, people losing their jobs and unable to sufficiently care for their cats became real fears. There were operational concerns such as how would we adopt cats from foster homes and make room to save more lives? Would this disease be zoonotic and cause cats to lose their homes, or possibly even their lives?

Understanding the impact of this crisis to TCR operations was perplexing, and daunting in the early stages.

Then a magical thing happened; our seasoned volunteers, together with a mass influx of first-time volunteers, stepped up and asked how they could help execute TCR's COVID preparedness plan. Their generosity and positivity single-handedly carried us through the struggles in 2020. Volunteer drivers delivered PPE, cats, food and other supplies to help each other.

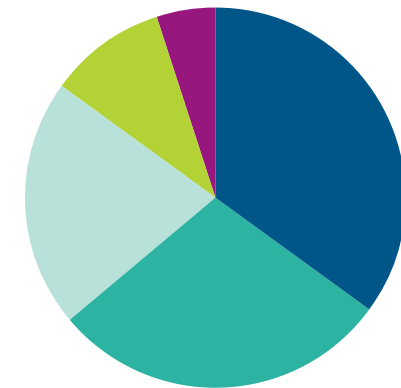
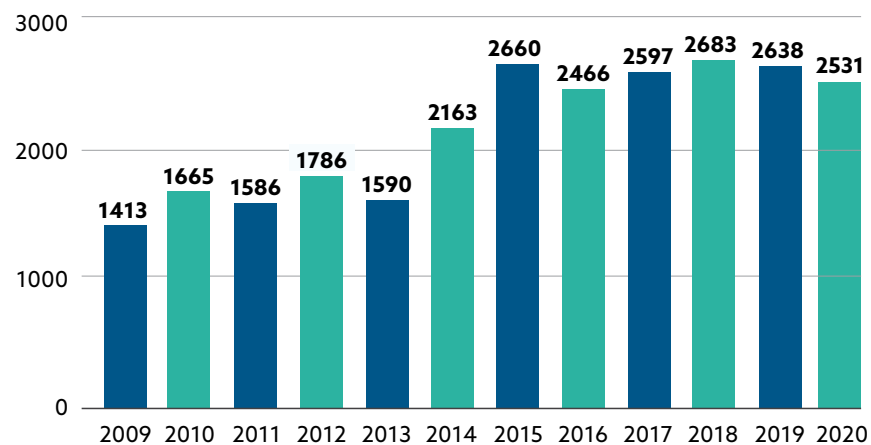
Out-of-the-box thinking brought us to curbside pickup of new cat intakes, contact-less adoptions, and strategic partnerships such as telemedicine with several veterinarians. We started intake diversion in collaboration with our shelter partners

and kitten adoptions with spay/neuter agreements. We became an indispensable part of the pet food bank, who were delivering food across Ontario, so that no cat would face hunger.

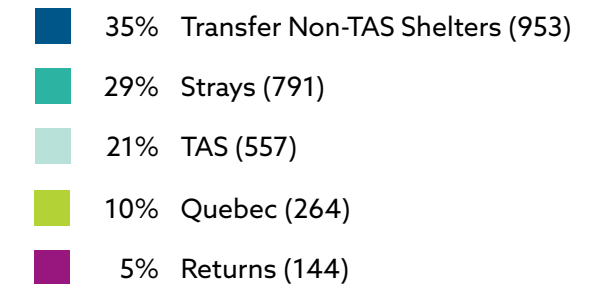
We rescued 80 cats from a single apartment and wrapped up the year with the largest same-source shelter intake in a single month – 102 cats found warm beds in TCR foster homes for the Christmas Holidays. This past year taught us the power of teamwork and partnerships. I am humbled by the graciousness and generosity of our volunteers, staff and management. Together we are a formidable force. I am continually amazed by the hard work and deep kindness in our organization.

Nalini Ramroop, Operations Manager

YOY Adoption



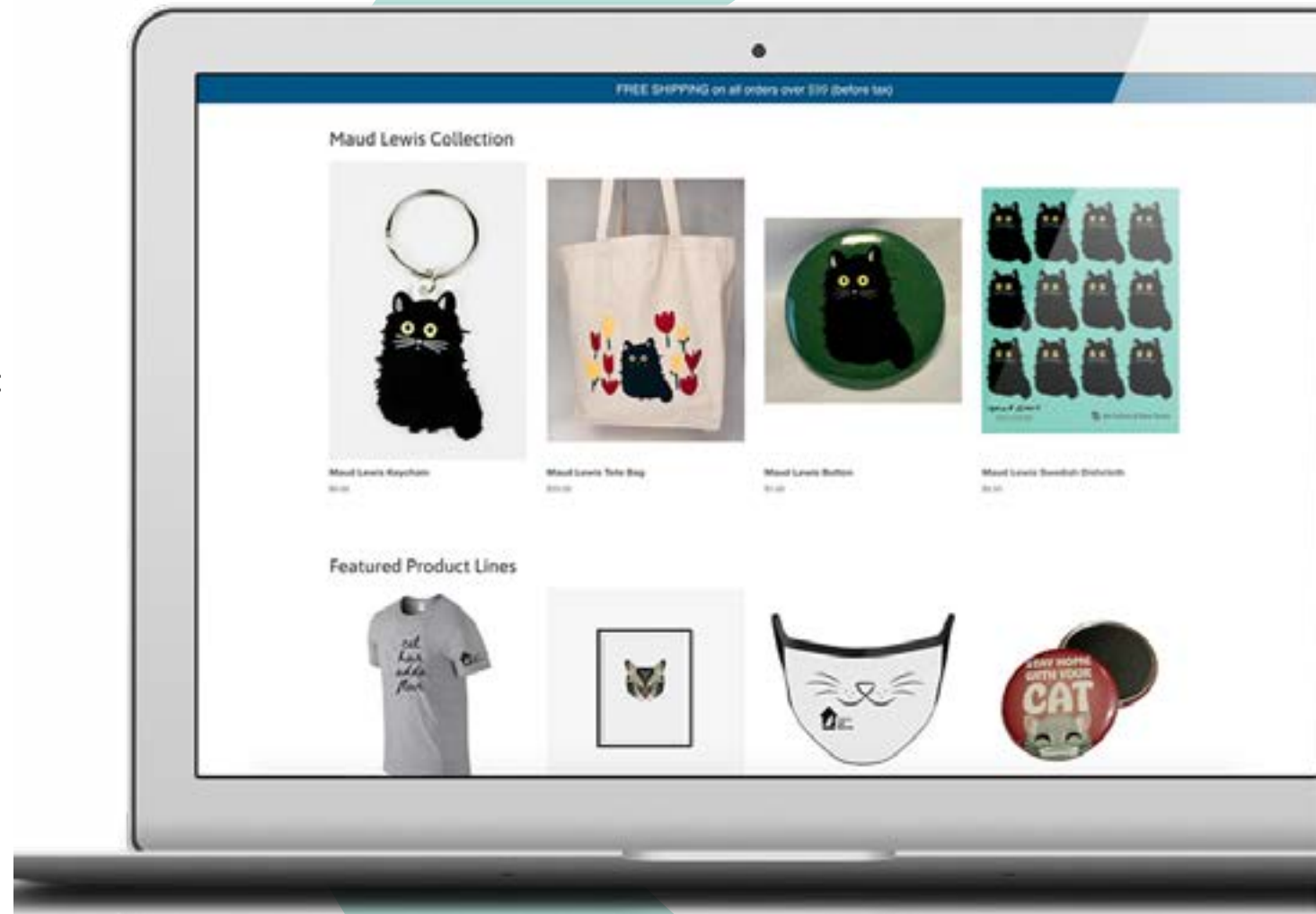
Intake Sources 2020



Online Shop

The uniqueness of 2020 has caused the merchandise volunteers to think outside of the box to make up for not being able to attend events. Along with designing two styles of masks, this year was all about partnering with Canadian artists. We teamed up with local artist Holly Truax to create a COVID related button; received beautiful animal geometric art prints from local artist Amelia Cass; and have partnered with multiple crafters all across Canada to create high-quality knit, crocheting and sewn cat blankets. Lastly, TCR has joined up with The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia to sell Maud Lewis (1903-1970) merchandise. Lewis was a cat lover and painted them often. We are happy to celebrate a great Canadian painter and our love for cats through the selling and sharing of her work.

Despite the pandemic, this year has been a success with over \$14,000 in sales.



“This year was all about partnering with local Canadian artists.”



2020 Highlights

Virtual Bowlathon

Every year, Toronto Cat Rescue volunteers get together to raise money and bowl for the cats! Our Save Cats from the Gutter event is always popular. Since we were in the middle of a global pandemic we thought 'let's bowl anyway!'. A group of volunteers organized the event, registrations, loot bags, and a solid group of bowlers in the GTA and KW regions bowled from home, on the beach, in the alley. They videotaped their fun and shared with the world. We love all our volunteers' efforts and hope soon to get back to bowling in person!

"We love all our volunteers' efforts and hope soon to get back to bowling in person!"



Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday follows Black Friday and Cyber Monday and is intended to encourage people to give to charities following the discount shopping days. Again this year we are so blessed to have our matching donor who encourages others to give. We are thankful to every single person who donated on this day.

May Giving Tuesday 2020

When COVID19 hit last year, the good folks at Giving Tuesday decided to move up their event from December to May. Toronto Cat Rescue was proud to participate and are ever grateful to our matching donor and everyone who donated on this day.





Cat success stories



Frankie arrived with 5 kittens in her tummy!

Happy Tails

Frankie

Frankie was trapped out on the streets of Toronto and taken to one of our foster homes. At the time, poor Frankie was very thin and needed some TLC! It was also clear to TCR that she was pregnant and on the verge of giving birth. As soon as she arrived at her foster home, Frankie was friendly, inquisitive and took kindly to her new humans; she seemed to really appreciate her new space. A few weeks later, Frankie gave birth to five little kittens in her safe shelter of foster care.

Frankie and her surviving kittens were sent off to their spay/neuter surgeries to get ready for adoption, when the attending vet noticed that Frankie had a severe heart murmur. The team at TCR decided to do whatever necessary to get the best care for this sweet girl, and reached out to a vet cardiologist for a consultation. It was diagnosed that she had a Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA). Her condition was operable and generally regarded as

expensive. Without this surgery, her prognosis was poor, with her condition imminently leading to congestive heart failure, generally within the first 3 years of a cat's life. Having the surgery would mean Frankie could make a full recovery, with a complete resolution of her heart condition.

After consultation with a number of experts in the field, TCR decided that it was in her best interest to perform the surgery and thanks to her team of dedicated vets and cheer squad back

at home, it went off without a hitch! Frankie is now making her recovery before she can find her forever home. She also needs dental work done before her adoption. This girl is a survivor and is so grateful to TCR for giving her a second chance at life. Without the intervention of TCR and its partners and donors, Frankie would be a malnourished mama cat on the streets, unlikely to make it through another year with her heart condition.



Now she's living that sweet house cat life in a cosy knit sweater!



Cookie

Cookie was admitted to the foster program with severe dermatitis and eyelashes rubbing against his cornea (a condition called entropion which requires surgery). He had to go through many medicinal procedures, and entropion surgery before he was ready to be adopted. He was so timid and gentle throughout, it was like he knew we were helping him get better! Super snuggly, talkative, playful.

A message from his forever mom
"Cookie is a dignified gent with an abundance of quirks: he likes to nap in the bathroom sink, steal pillows at bedtime and lounge on the windowsill with two legs perilously dangling off. His house servant (adopter) laughs at his wacky personality in the moments where she is not being forced to be the Cuddler in Chief."

"Cookie is a dignified gent with an abundance of quirks."





Herman

Herman was transferred to TCR from one of our rural shelter partners. He was adopted in the Spring of 2020 and returned that fall due to a persistent growth on his right front paw. Histopathology confirmed that the growth was a feline Sarcoid, caused by a bovine virus that Herman contracted from cattle during his early years of living on a farm. This condition is extremely rare and has not been studied much in cats.

It was baffling for TCR vet partners at first, but we would not give up on Herman. This was a great case study for us. We viewed it as an opportunity to help other cats who may have this virus in the future.

After extensive research and expensive diagnostics, our TCR vet partner determined that full leg amputation was the best course of action. And that would ensure no regrowth of this invasive mass anywhere else on Herman's body. The amputation saved his life.

Just before the Christmas holidays 2020, Handsome Herman finally got adopted by a long time TCR volunteer. He has been renamed Benny and is now living a pampered life with his feline bestie, Huey.

"It was baffling for TCR vet partners at first, but we would not give up on Herman."

Mushu

In July of 2020, TCR answered the shelter's call for an urgent extraction of cats from a hoarding situation. We took in 80 cats from this source in mere hours. They were all in rough shape and needed expensive medical treatment. For a few, it was too late but the majority survived. All cats needed months of medical rehabilitation and TLC in safe foster homes.

One champion from this source is Mushu.

Mushu is a 6 year old Siamese cross. He is a charming cat with a friendly personality despite coming from these rough beginnings. Mushu had to be shaved by our veterinarian due to severe matting. He was very thin and scared. And yet Mushu quickly opened up to his foster family, asking for pets and even allowed himself to be picked up.

Over the weeks, he began putting on more weight and became more interested in exploring his new home. After Mushu's fur grew back in full, he became playful and healthy.

Mushu has IBD, issues with his liver that are responding well to supplements and corneal scarring in both eyes from infection left untreated when he was younger.

Mushu found a wonderful forever home who provided all the care he needed. Sadly, a few short months later, his owner passed away suddenly.

Mushu returned to TCR. He amazes us with his resilience. Despite all the hardships he has encountered, he still loves to cuddle and play with all his toys. Even though he can't tell us, we believe that Mushu is very happy that TCR rescued him and his buddies that July day in 2020.

Mushu found himself back in the TCR program where we continue to care for him, and his medical needs until he finds a new home.



Orville and Wilbur

Orville and Wilbur were rescued from a very large, hoarding situation in July. They arrived into foster care traumatized and shut down.

After two weeks at their foster home, both were showing their natural exuberance and high energy. Chases were fierce and toys were shown no mercy. Orville even allowed some pets when he was distracted enough by play.

Unfortunately, when Orville went for his dental it was discovered that he had Wells' syndrome*!

Orville had a patch on his lower throat/upper chest. The typical causes are allergies (food or environment) or fleas. We knew that Orville had never had fleas so he was put on a hypoallergenic diet (which meant Wilbur was on it, too) and prescribed a steroid for the inflammation.

At around the same time, Wilbur was diagnosed with an ear infection! Luckily both kittens' ailments cleared up quickly with antibiotics.

In the meantime, while most hoarded cats like the company of other cats, it was clear that after all their trials, Orville and Wilbur had a special bond and would be posted and adopted as a bonded pair.

They had three potential adoptions fall through; people unsure about dealing with Orville. There was no predicting what would happen with his condition. He could get better and never have an episode again, or he might struggle with it his whole life.

Finally, after over five months in foster care, Matthew came along! Matthew who only asked questions about their welfare and what would be best for them.

A month later, Matthew reported that the pair had settled in nicely and are adjusting very well to their new home.

*Wells' syndrome is a rare disease which also goes by the name 'eosinophilic cellulites'. In this disease, itchy, burning, red, and inflamed areas can form anywhere on the skin. The inflamed areas can look like a skin infection called cellulites, but there is no true infection present.





Volunteer Spotlight



“TCR has built a beautifully welcoming and supportive community.”

Avia Moore

Avia Moore started fostering for TCR in October 2020. She jumped right in and has fostered nine cats since then. Avia is an artist and producer, and a PhD Candidate in Performance Studies at York University.

“Because all of my work is remote (or postponed) right now due to the pandemic, I’m at home most of the time. Knowing that I needed some company, a close friend of mine suggested that I try fostering with TCR this year. Fostering for TCR has been helping me get through these tremendously difficult months. It is a

particularly isolating time to live alone and I find that having a cat or kittens to care for helps to ground me each day. The cats demand that I be present for them in the moment – particularly when working on socialization. And it is much harder to be sad when you have a kitten doing somersaults on your lap!

In the process, I have discovered that TCR has fostered more than cats. They have built a beautifully welcoming and supportive community. My Foster Coordinator, Alex, has been a rock-star, as

has Azraa on the med team. Both have answered my many questions with patience and humor.

I wasn’t expecting such a wonderful network to come with fostering and I’m grateful to be part of the TCR family.”

Daniel

Daniel started volunteering with Toronto Cat Rescue in August 2015. His love for cats began when he was 14 and two stray cats befriended him and his siblings while they spent the summer at their parent’s cottage.

His sister Alison, suggested becoming a foster after he complained to her about being very lonely in his newly purchased home in April 2015. Shortly after fostering his first set of kittens, Luna and Rory, he was hooked! Daniel



adores cats and loves to help them become healthy and adoptable. Fostering cats has become a huge part of Daniel’s everyday life. He hopes that TCR can continue to rely on the dedication and sacrifice that so many volunteers make everyday so that more cats can be saved.



"Our foster kittens have brought us so much joy!"

Mansi

I moved to Toronto just before the COVID-19 pandemic caused everything to temporarily close. Back home in India, I was an active rescuer, feeder, and foster of stray animals. I wanted to continue working towards animal welfare and that's how I came across TCR! To anybody who is passionate about animal rescue, you want to be associated with people and an organization that give it their all to save lives. And with that thought, I started my journey as a Foster Coordinator (FC) at TCR in April 2020.

My role is to empower foster homes by supporting them through their journey of fostering up until adoption. Being an FC at TCR has been a very rewarding experience and I've learnt a great deal being amongst brilliant and experienced people. TCR is often the last hope for many cats and I've seen the great lengths to which it goes to ensure the cats are comfortable and get the best care. I'm super grateful to be part of this support system.



Sue Jean

2020 was a year when many of us were looking for silver linings. One such silver lining for our family was that the sudden move from long hours at our offices to working from home meant that we could finally look at taking care of a pet at home. We chose to volunteer with TCR because we were impressed by their extensive rescue work. We have a special reason for wanting to be a foster family, our son was adopted and before we became our family of three he lived with a foster family. We want him to know what

it means to provide love and care to some special kittens before they go to their forever home, the same way that a foster family is part of his story. We've had some challenging situations and we are so grateful to have been given so much advice and guidance! TCR provides an excellent support system and there is a network of experienced foster families ready to share their expertise. Our foster kittens have brought us so much joy. Thank you TCR for all that you do!

Financial Summary





Treasurer Statement

Entering this fiscal year, TCR was ready to focus on the next stage of its development, a Focus on the Future. Enough has been said about 2020, however the organization had to pivot away from the strategic plan in order to ensure we could continue our mandate in this new COVID-19 environment.

Despite the challenges of the past year, our organization has had amazing partners come to the table to ensure we were able to weather the storm and not dip into reserves too much. This will allow us to get back on track with our strategic plan when things begin to return to normal and has allowed us to continue to operate and save over 2650 lives this past year.

I would also like to thank our corporate sponsors that stepped forward to ensure we had the support we needed as well. PetSmart Charities, HIS International, Royal Canin and many other organizations provided TCR with support this year. We would also like to thank the Red Cross for ensuring our staff and volunteers had the PPE required to continue to safely operate.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the staff and volunteers of TCR for their hard work during these challenging times. It's been a privilege to serve as the treasurer of this organization over the last 5 years. As we emerge into the post COVID environment, TCR is set up to thrive and reengage on focusing on the future.

Kevin Wilson

Financial Statement

For the year ended September 30, 2020

Revenue	2020	2019
Adoption Fees	401,290	423,394
Donations - Receipted	174,224	46,372
Donations In Kind	102,863	112,237
Donations - Non Receipted	470,022	365,315
Corporate Contributions	77,620	62,245
Sales	8,296	17,214
Fundraising	29,495	69,861
Corporate and Charitable Grants	57,163	25,708
Other Income	50,271	-
Interest Income	7,442	828
	\$ 1,378,686	\$ 1,123,174

Expenses	2020	2019
Veterinary Care	643,876	570,929
Cat Expenses	27,708	10,946
Volunteer Centre Expenses	32,154	5,901
Volunteer Program Expenses	15,202	6,183
Fundraising Expenses	25,633	25,441
Salaries and Benefits	221,516	206,722
Licenses, Memberships and Dues	18,885	9,300
Office and General	30,148	11,704
Professional Fees	9,477	8,539
Telecommunications	2,655	3,992
Travel	10,095	7,748
Amortization	2,245	12,179
Advertising and Promotion	49	-
Interest and Bank Charges	129	89
Donations In Kind	102,863	112,237
	\$ 1,142,635	\$ 1,021,910
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	236,051	101,264
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	252,289	151,025
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$ 488,340	\$ 252,289

And to our many private donors
and volunteers. We couldn't have
done this without you!

Thank you to our
Sponsors





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