



- 1 Message from Jane Pierantozzi
- 2 Leadership
- **3–4** History and Timeline
  - 5 Our New Home Underway
  - **6** FY22 Financial Summary
  - **7** Saving Lives
- **8–11** Stories of Hope & Happiness
- **12–15** Program Highlights
  - **16** Volunteer Programs

For the past 22 years, Faithful Friends has been the voice for animals who cannot speak for themselves. We will continue to be their voice for decades to come, thanks to the support of our caring community.

JANE PIERANTOZZI



## A MESSAGE FROM

Jane Pierantozzi
Our Founder & Executive Director

## **Next-Level Progress: Now and Beyond**

In our 22 years, one thing has been a constant at Faithful Friends, our steadfast dedication to advocating for all animals. During the next 20 years and beyond, we will continue to push for progress that ensures a better future for all animals. We will continue to fulfill our commitment through the **Sharon Struthers**Animal Adoption and Community Resource Center.

In 2023, we will open the doors of our new, modern shelter and sanctuary — a facility fully equipped with standard-of-care features and ample space to provide the best care possible for our resident animals.

The Sharon Struthers Animal Adoption and Community Resource Center has been made possible through the donors who have given generously to our Building Compassion Capital Campaign. Without you, we would not be embarking on the next generation of lifesaving care for our animal friends.

### **Expanding Our Circle of Compassion: Roots That Define Our Future**

To help us move into the next decade and beyond, we look to our roots. What drove our need to establish Faithful Friends was a moral imperative to expose the secrecy of neglect and mass killing of pets and feral cats entering our state's publicly funded shelters. Now that we have reversed the killing and established a no-kill-legislated foundation for animal welfare statewide, we must also have the fortitude to face other systems of animal cruelty happening in the shadows.

For over two decades, Faithful Friends has cared for tens of thousands of dogs and cats, as well as hundreds of rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, and several pigs, goats, and chickens. What we've learned is that all animals, while they look different, really are the same. They are sentient beings, just like us. Animals feel love, fear, pain, and joy, and develop relationships with humans and each other. At the end of the day, they all want to feel safe and cared for.

It is solely our choice who we protect and love. While we expand our circle of compassion to all animals, we heal ourselves in the process.



## Behind Every Animal is a Person with a Heart for Rescue

This year, nearly 1,700 animals came to our shelter, many often scared, sick and confused. On any given day, we cared for over 430 animals, with close to 1,600 dogs and cats placed in loving homes. Serving 18,000 pets and 24,000 people annually, our lifesaving care and numerous essential services provide the love and compassion these animals, and the people in their lives, deserve. We are only able to achieve these

Jane Vierantozzi

amazing goals with the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, business patrons, and hardworking staff.

Through the generosity of the Laffey-McHugh Foundation and The Humane Society of the United States, who provided grants that fund our Pets-For-Life Program, we are able to have provided community outreach and pet-owner support with a focus on the underserved communities in the City of Wilmington and the Sparrow Run Community in Newark, Delaware. This program helps owners care for their furry family members, and significantly reduces pet relinquishment, keeping pets with their families, for life.

We look forward to working with you, our partners in this lifesaving work, to tackle the next level of challenges in Delaware's animal welfare community.

The 2021 Pet Food Manufacturer Fee increase will boost our state's spay/neuter fund. This fee increase will be phased in over the next three years and is forecasted to bring in \$650,000 annually by 2025. Funds will be used to spay/neuter approximately 4,000 additional cats, dogs, and community cats each year.

Thanks to a strong partnership with our state legislators, we continue to successfully lead reforms that create statewide, foundational changes for both animals and citizens who care about them. Your support is needed to help advance animal protections in our state.

## LEADERSHIP

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 

Robert Wasserbach, CPA, Esq.

President

**Sharon Struthers** 

Vice President

**Erin Salamone** 

Treasurer

Rebecca Frederick

Secretary

**Cheryl Bradley** 

**Jeffrey M. Bross**, P.E., LEED AP, FACEC

Jonathan Choa, Esq.

**BOARD OF ADVISORS** 

**Sean Bavol-Montgomery** 

CFO, Integrity Staffing Solutions

**Bonney Brown** 

Humane Network

Jill Cantera

President, Bellevue Contractors, LLC

Kathy Gallagher

Owner, Michael Gallagher Jewelers

**Nancy Horisk-Sherr** 

Freelance Writer/Editor

**Donna Kinzel** 

Executive, Ursuline Academy

**Craig Prettyman** 

Chief of Technology, University of Delaware

Ann C. Rose

Philanthropist

**Laurisa Schutt** 

Executive Director, First State Educate

Nathan Winograd, Esq.

No Kill Advocacy Center

**Connie Wittig** 

Diamond State Management

STAFF LEADERSHIP\*

Jane Pierantozzi

Executive Director

Pam Heissenbuttel

Chief Financial Officer

Shannon O'Neill

Development and PR Director

Jeannie DiSabatino

Facilities and Human Resources Director

**Bruce Barry** 

Animal Welfare Operations Director

Dr. Karen Sweeney

Shelter and Community
Wellness Veterinarian

**Geannine Checchio** 

Dog Department Manager and Customer Service Manager

Lynn Albright

Cat Department Manager

\*At time of publication







### HOW IT ALL BEGAN:

## The Little Dog in Cage 134

Twenty-two years ago, Jane Pierantozzi, the founder of Faithful Friends, visited a Delaware publicly funded shelter to find a dog. The dogs had no names, only numbers, and no bedding or toys. Even worse, the employees who interacted with customers had no basic knowledge of dogs and cats. Shockingly, they discouraged adoptions. After walking among the desperate animals who were barking, hiding, and pawing to get her attention, one dog caught her eye, and ears.

Peanut, as he would come to be named, was a Lhasa Apso who sounded like a crying baby. While whimpering and shaking with fear, Jane asked about the little dog in cage 134. A shelter employee replied, "You don't want him, honey. He has a skin disease that will cost you thousands of dollars to fix."

Unable to forget Peanut and the other suffering pets, Jane returned to adopt him when his "stray hold" was up. Peanut had patches of hair missing and exposed raw skin. After receiving care at a local veterinarian for \$150. it was determined that Peanut had a simple flea allergy. Peanut was neutered and quickly found a new, forever home with a loving family.

### Combating the 90% Kill Rate

Jane later discovered that Peanut's shelter was funded by taxpayers, and mass numbers of animals were being killed in these facilities.

In 2000, the shelter and Delaware overall had a 90% kill rate. About 25,000 animals a year were being killed year after year in our state. Peanut's voice was her inspiration to reform our publicly funded shelter system for abandoned, abused and neglected animals. Ending poor shelter conditions, and killing as a routine solution, required leadership.

Faithful Friends educated state policymakers about the national no-kill movement, which was the goal and had success in communities across the country. Change starts with a progressive, caring shelter director.

In 2004. Senator Patricia Blevins heard our pleas for help. As the animal welfare reform lead legislator, Senator Blevins and the entire assembly joined us to improve the lives of pets in Delaware.

In 2016, Delaware reported a 90% save rate.

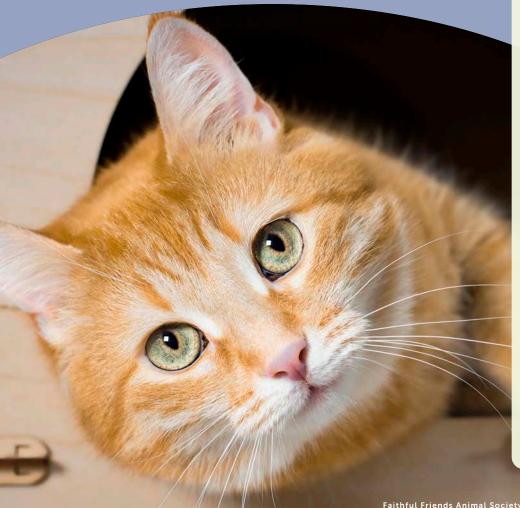
### **OUR JOURNEY TO**

## Make Delaware a No-Kill State

Faithful Friends was formed by a group of concerned citizens who believed there was a more humane way, than mass euthanasia, to solve pet overpopulation and homelessness in Delaware.

We are proud to have led major reforms which have become the building blocks for a comprehensive, humane animal welfare system in Delaware. We are simultaneously growing our no-kill shelter and support services for pet caretakers in need, and keeping pets with those who love them whenever possible.

— Jane Pierantozzi, Executive Director



### 2000-2003

Group of citizens led by Jane Pierantozzi exposes the 90% kill rate in publicly funded shelters; starts the volunteer Pet Life Line to provide alternative animal welfare resources to the public. Faithful Friends incorporates and opens a No Kill shelter in Delaware.

### 2006

Faithful Friends leads the creation of Delaware's first spay/neuter legislation that is signed into law, and becomes a national model for animal welfare; public spay/neuter fund is created to help pet owners on public assistance, and shelters are required to spay/neuter pets prior to adoption.

### 2008

Faithful Friends opens the first free pet food and supply bank in Delaware, and guides other organizations to implement similar programs to better serve our community together.

### 2010

Faithful Friends leads the creation of Delaware's Animal Shelter Standards Law, a national model for animal welfare. Shelters are now required to: provide basic medical care to animals; extend a 72-hour stray hold to include cats; and publicly post animal outcomes.

### 2011-2013

Faithful Friends requests that Delaware's animal welfare services be consolidated and moved under a supportive state agency, leading Delaware to solve animal welfare issues. The state legislature appoints a task force to review. In 2013, the Office of Animal Welfare is created under the Department of Health and Human Services.

### 2014-2017

Faithful Friends expands their low-cost, quality veterinary services for the community to include basic sick care, wellness care, and special procedures. In 2017, completes renovation to an adjacent building, further expanding services and providing pet owners with affordable alternatives and real, workable solutions to relinquishing pets to shelters or euthanasia.

### 2018

Building Compassion Capital Campaign begins with the goal to construct a new Animal Adoption and Community Resource Center at 165 Airport Road in New Castle.

### 2021

Quiet phase of Capital Campaign.
Faithful Friends leads the implementation of a registration fee increase to manufacturers on the sale of pet food in Delaware, adding to the state's spay/neuter fund to extend this program to even more people.

4

Faithful Friends Animal Society FY2022 Community Impact Report

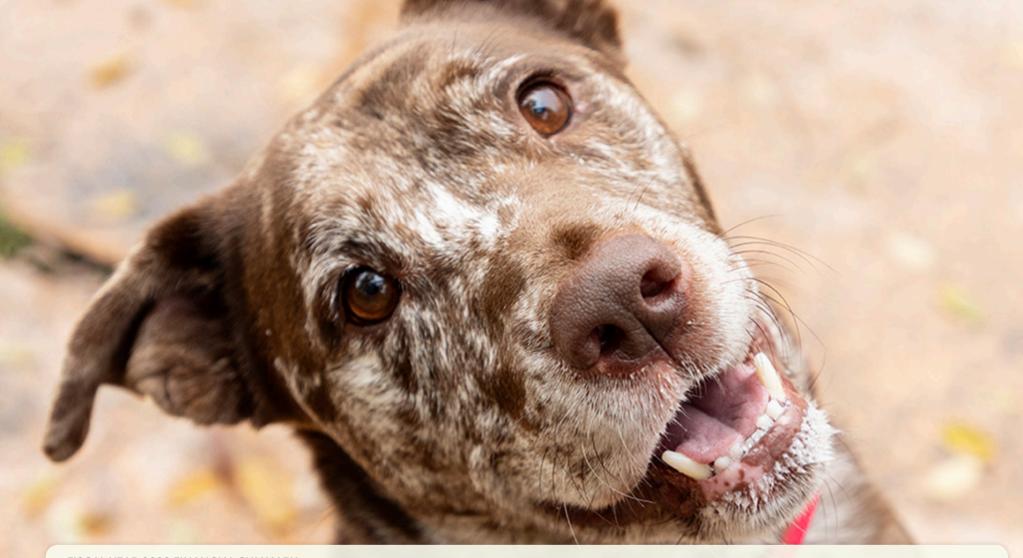


In October 2021, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the new 18,000 sq. ft. facility located at 165 Airport Road in New Castle and unveiled the naming of the building, the Sharon Struthers Animal Adoption and Community Resource Center. Since then, work has continued on the 27-acre site deeded to Faithful Friends from the State of Delaware.

- Spacious, bright areas for animal residents waiting for loving homes
- Group living and quieter space for animals with special needs
- Ample inside and outside space for visitors and volunteers to interact with animals including screened-in "catios" and dog play yards
- Safe walking trails and spacious play areas

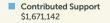
Bancroft Construction, Adel Construction, Duffield Associates, and Blake and Vaughan Engineering, along with a core team of local dedicated contractors, have worked tirelessly on the building construction and interior and exterior amenities.

Our team's hard work, the unwavering dedication of our supporters over the last 22 years, and the incredibly generous donors who have given to our Building Compassion Capital Campaign have made our dream of a permanent home designed for animal needs and the needs of those who care for them a reality. Our modern shelter in a natural setting is almost complete! Construction is scheduled to be completed in early 2023 and our move is being planned for spring 2023. This next step for our organization will help increase our footprint and our lifesaving in the community.



### FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

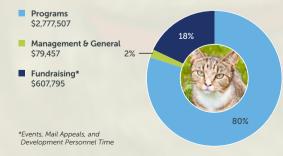
### **2022 REVENUE \$3.3M**



- Grants \$653,491
- Earned Revenues \$855,436
- Fundraising Events \$126,275



### **2022 EXPENSES \$3.5M**



### Program Services include:

- Sheltering and Adoption
- Community Veterinary Care
- Food and Supply Bank
- Pet Therapy Programs
- Pet Life Line
- Sanctuary-Lifetime Care
- Advocacy

An independent audit is conducted each year and is available upon request.



We saved lives through a comprehensive adoption program, foster care network, and rescue partnerships. Exemplary shelter care was provided to **1,686** homeless cats and dogs, with **1,592** adopted to loving homes. **469** animals were in our shelter and foster care at year's end.

We care for more than **433** animals at any one time, with **23%** of our budget allocated to direct medical care. We provided lifetime sanctuary care to **287** cats and dogs, and enrichment for these pets who are least likely to be adopted.

We prevented pet homelessness through low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for **2,261** pets. Our free pet food bank services help people to care for the animals in their lives. These include animals in shelter care, owned pets, and community free-roaming pets. We served **3,659** people with free pet food for **7,613** pets and colony cats.

18,000
PETS SERVED
24,000
PEOPLE HELPED

# STORIES OF HOPE & Happiness

## A Foster Mother's Love

**Benson** was found outside as a stray by a community member. She was friendly and pregnant and the person who found Benson wanted to help her. She needed a safe place to rest until she had her kittens. After calling our shelter for advice, the community member offered to foster Benson until she had her five kittens, then bring Benson and her kittens to the shelter for care. Benson was a gentle mom who liked the attention of those caring for her. That same week, another pregnant cat gave birth and rejected her three kittens. We gently introduced the three newborns to Benson, and without hesitation, she began to clean and feed them. Benson and all eight of "her" kittens were lucky enough to find another foster home to care for the whole family until they were ready for

adoption. Once ready, the kittens were quickly adopted, but Benson stayed at the shelter waiting for her family a little longer. Missing her kittens, and a social eater, Benson declined while at the shelter and needed to find a home to call her own. Eventually, Benson found the perfect family and is doing great.





### A New Path Home

Designed to give feral, unadoptable, and displaced community cats a safe haven, Faithful Friends' Barn Program this fiscal year gave 113 community cats a second chance. Since the program's inception, more than 170 cats have been placed in barns.

Our Cat Department Manager grew our barn placement program in 2021, and during the summer of 2022 completed yet another successful placement. Working with a local rescue partner, we helped place two semi-social cats, that might otherwise be hard to adopt, into an alternative home.

**Tyson and Millie** were placed in a large pastoral setting where they could be happy and "work" from home. In between lounging around and taking cat naps, Tyson and Millie have proven to be adept hunters. Tyson and Millie enjoy spending their days outside, but they have also discovered the joys of cuddling up on a warm sofa or bed. Tyson's family has decided that he is a dog, stuck in a cat's body. He follows his family around all day, rolls in the dirt at their feet while they are doing yard work, and even went for a couple of dips in the pool over a few hot days last summer. Millie is still shy around visitors but is very friendly when with her family. Millie and Tyson are both happy they have the freedom to explore the outdoors and the comforts of a warm home. Stories like these give us the validation we need to continue implementing our Barn Program.





## The Right Dog for the Job

**Jack** was in the care of Faithful Friends for several months in 2021 after he was purchased from someone on the streets of Wilmington, and brought to a staff member at Faithful Friends for help. Jack was adopted quickly, placed into three different homes, and returned each time due to his high energy and incompatibility in the new home.

Every time Jack returned to the shelter he would become increasingly stressed, depressed, and anxious. Jack craves being in a home, loves being next to a human, and truly strives to please those around him. While the staff absolutely adored Jack in Faithful Friends' care, he needed a home and family to call his own.

With the power of social media and a viral TikTok, Rick, a police officer, saw Jack and instantly knew he would be the right dog for the job. After meeting with Jack, he went through initial evaluations with the Trainer Borough Police Department for Sector K9s Rescue2Resource Program to meet the rigorous demands of Police K9 training and health standards for their initial training. We were thrilled to hear that he had passed, classifying him as a 1 in 1,000 dog, and would be a candidate for training. Jack now works full time as an official detection K9 with his dad Rick and received his very own police badge.

After a few months of training, Officer Rick brought Jack to show Faithful Friends how great he is doing and let us know they will be attending additional training together. Jack loved visiting staff and volunteers and even remembered those who took care of him while he was at the shelter. While we were so happy to see Jack and reunite for an afternoon, Faithful Friends is even happier to see him thriving in his forever home.

## stories of Hope & Happiness

## **Healing Their Wounds and Their Hearts**

In June 2022, a woman found a dog at a park across the street from our shelter, and immediately brought her to Faithful Friends when she found that the dog was not moving. Our Dog Kennel Supervisor quickly jumped into action to help. The dog, now named **Candy** by our dog staff, was then rushed to our partner Windcrest Veterinary Hospital. Unfortunately, Candy had no microchip and had been clearly abandoned by her previous owner. Candy was diagnosed with Parvovirus, a contagious virus where mortality can reach 91% in untreated cases, and had a long road to recovery ahead of her. Candy was initially being treated at Windcrest, before being transferred to continue her care at another partner, Longwood Veterinary Hospital. By July, Candy was doing great and had transitioned to her foster-to-adopt home. Though she wasn't out of the woods just



yet and continued needing round-the-clock care, one of the veterinary technicians at Longwood fell in love with her and decided to take Candy home to continue her recovery. Once Candy came home, her foster mother decided to officially adopt her, and she is now fully recovered in her forever home.

Coraline was brought to Faithful Friends by a good Samaritan who found her in mid-October 2021. The person who found her realized Coraline needed urgent medical care. She arrived at Faithful Friends with infected wounds over much of her body which our veterinary team suspected were burns from being in a car engine. Thanks to the support from our community, we could step in and provide Coraline with the immediate treatment she needed.

The wounds began to heal and Coraline's prognosis started looking great. Our veterinarians expect her to live a full, healthy life, although she will likely have scars on her body where the hair does not grow back.



At less than a year old, Coraline had obviously endured a lot in her young life, but on the mend, she found a forever family to call her own.

AT-A-GLANCE

11,500
Pet caretakers counseled

3,659
Pet caretakers received free pet food

7,613
Pets received free food

**4,425** 

Pets received affordable veterinary care, such as surgeries, wellness visits, and vaccines

292 Foster Parents

770
Cats and kittens in shortand long-term foster care

Dogs in short- and long-term foster care

## Giving Hope to Others

Marshall came to Hope Center in December 2020 and was there for a little over a year, through February 2022. Hope Center is the only homeless shelter in Delaware that allows its residents to have pets. Marshall has two dogs that are family to him. With help from Faithful Friends, Marshall was able to move into Hope Center and we got the dogs up to date on their shots, neutered one dog, and performed a mass removal surgery on the other. Marshall was able to move out of Hope Center and into an apartment with his dogs. He now has gone full circle and volunteers his time to residents and their pets at Hope Center. Faithful Friends is grateful for Marshall and his dedication to our mission of ending the neglect, abandonment, and killing of pets in Delaware, and enriching the lives of people by promoting and providing compassionate animal-related welfare and social services. We provided case management support to **24 residents and their pets**, including 14 cats, 22 dogs, one turtle, four guinea pigs, and fish.



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Keeping Pets Safe & Healthy / Outside the Shelter Doors

We supported local pet owners in need by providing guidance and counseling to more than 11,500 community members through our Pet Life Line and customer service team. The goal is to help keep pets with the people who love them or find alternative placements to keep them safe. The life line is operated by volunteers who dedicated nearly 203 hours of service. We helped 3,659 people receive free pet food for 7,613 animals from our Free Food and Supply Bank. In addition to the pet food bank at our shelter, we offer four other food bank locations in New Castle County, to help reach more people in our community, including Bellevue Community Center (serving Edgemoor Gardens); Child, Inc. (serving Sparrow Run); New Castle County Hope Center; and The Warehouse (serving Wilmington). Faithful Friends also offers food delivery programs for pet owners without transportation in partnership with Meals on Wheels and our volunteer program. The program serves pet owners in a financial crisis or on a limited income, as well as those who need support to care for free-roaming community cats. Donations from individuals and local businesses allow us to provide our free pet food banks to the community.



We provided quality, low-cost veterinary services to our community, which allow families to keep their pets, and enables community cats to stay healthy in colonies. Our goal is to avoid pets entering shelters because of medical needs, unnecessary euthanasia, and medical neglect due to financial constraints.



## **Foster Care for Animals**

When our shelter is at full occupancy, or when animals can't thrive in a shelter environment, we turn to volunteers and foster parents to extend our lifesaving capacity. Our Foster Care Program's network of **292** foster parents assists very young pets such as kittens and puppies, moms and their babies, and adults and seniors with special medical or behavioral needs. The youngest and oldest animals are most vulnerable to illnesses common in shelters. Our largest population served by foster parents is kittens. Delaware continues to face challenges with the number of abandoned and homeless, which has created a cat crisis in our state. Kitten season is the time of year when kittens are found and thousands are brought to shelters for refuge. For a chance to survive, some orphaned kittens need bottle feeding. Kitten season has been lasting longer than past years. Kitten season started in late April of 2021 and continued through 2022. The hardest months for high volumes are June through October. Faithful Friends provides medical care and food, while foster families provide a safe place, full of love, companionship, and exercise.

Hard-to-adopt dogs and cats received long-term and

lifetime care

Cats housed in Feral Cat

Cats in group living in shelter

Dogs in shelter

Cats and dogs in long-term foster homes

## Sanctuary for Community Cats and Dogs

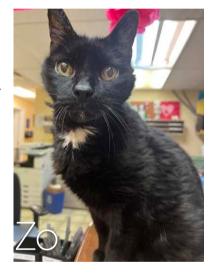


Long-term and lifetime care was provided to **298 hard-to-adopt cats and dogs**. The care is provided either onsite or through supported foster families. Our **Feral Cat Sanctuary** houses up to **60** displaced feral cats in a small barn. We provided care to **31** feral cats in our onsite barn in Fiscal Year 2022. It features a pet door leading to a fenced 40' x 40' outdoor space, with vertical areas for cats to climb and sun themselves. The

barn is insulated, heated, and cooled. Oftentimes, a sanctuary cat socializes with humans and they are transitioned into our adoption program. Because of age, behavior, incurable

disease, disability, and/or terminal illness, some cats and dogs may not be adopted and therefore are placed in one of several sanctuary care options. Cats are placed in one of our cat group living rooms in the shelter, or in a long-term specialized foster home. Some dogs, because of neglect or abuse, have developed challenging behaviors and require rehabilitation. Faithful Friends promises sanctuary care to these dogs. They're offered priority for a limited number of dog apartments, and paired with Volunteer Ambassadors whenever possible. We also work with sanctuary partners, like Free to Be

Dog Haven. Currently, four of our sanctuary dogs live in the sanctuary environment that allows them to feel safe and enjoy their lives. We also provide behavioral assessments and medical treatment as



warranted for stress/anxiety, positive-based behavioral training, and training and activities to keep them mentally engaged and emotionally fit.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### **Dog Training Triumph**

Zach Ruth is a Certified Training Partner of the Karen Pryor Academy. Zach has been with Faithful Friends since the summer of 2018 and has ten years of shelter experience. Zach was brought on as the training assistant in 2018 and quickly realized



that becoming a professional trainer was the career path he wanted to pursue. Dogs in the shelter need people who are patient and willing to work through whatever issues they may have at that time, and Zach does exactly that. Zach has been able to work with countless adopters and foster parents in order to keep dogs from being returned or brought to the shelter. He also works on behavior modification and basic obedience issues with members of the public.

Lou and Alicia Nicastro, supporters of Faithful Friends, recently welcomed Nucky into their home. Nucky has become quite acclimated to their home and his two siblings, thanks to Zach's training. His self-assured answers to their ques-

tions confirmed his experience and solidified the knowledge that he is a professional. From the moment Zach entered the room, all three of the dogs recognized and respected his presence, and looked to him for their next directive. Zach was able to quickly transfer those directions to them and explain why and how the training would proceed. Alicia and Lou now have a relationship with their dogs that they never imagined, all thanks to Faithful Friends and our dog trainer Zach.

### A Voice for All Animals

Faithful Friends opens its doors to many other types of animals in addition to the traditional dogs and cats. This year we were fortunate enough to be able to give many other animals their forever homes. Several pot-belly pigs, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas, and a bearded dragon all found their way to our shelter. Some were abandoned and left behind, and others were surrendered by families who could no longer care for them.



**Billie and Kaden**, two small bunnies, were found wrapped in a bedsheet inside a carrier. Community members realized what was inside and quickly brought them to our shelter for care and to make sure they were safe. Our staff opened our doors and had a comfortable living space for Billie and Kaden to share together. They also went to experience life in a foster home so their adjustment to a forever home would be easier for them. After a few weeks, they found their forever home together, and are happy and healthy.

Cats aren't the only pets that receive barn placements. While some pigs we see can live happily in both a home and outdoors, others do best outside. **Buttercup and Wilbur** made their way to our care when their owner was no longer able to care for them due to health issues. At five years old, these pigs found themselves needing a loving owner, some land to roam free, and a nice hut to stay warm and cozy for cold winter nights. A Faithful Friends family of supporters who studied rehabilitation with animals, and nurtured raccoons, rabbits, deer, ducks, and other animals, offered to rehome Wilbur and Buttercup onto their 26 acres of land.



Now, each pet is living a wonderful life with their new families and has a place to call home. Alternative natural placements were found for the pigs, while the other animals found more traditional home placements. Faithful Friends is fortunate to be a voice for all animals in need, and approaches finding homes for these animals with understanding and empathy.

### **Pet Life Line/Customer Service Team**

Whether it is a call about needing veterinary care resources, finding a lost pet, or needing more urgent assistance with a crisis, our Pet Life Line and Customer Service Representatives are always ready to help. We counsel over 10,000 individuals each year through calls, emails and visits we receive. Our safety net of services for pets and pet owners makes stepping in to help in crisis situations possible.

### **Barn Cats**

A Wilmington resident who cares for a colony of six community cats arrived home to find one of her cats deceased. It was an awful site as the cat had been mutilated. Although this small colony of cats primarily stayed within the caretaker's backyard, surrounded by a privacy fence, they would also venture out to neighboring yards. Neighbors disliked the cats and wanted them removed. Due to previous threats made to the cats, the caretaker suspected one of the neighbors may have been responsible. Animal control got involved and began an investigation; however, the incident was so distressing, the caretaker began searching for alternative homes for the remaining five cats to keep them safe.



When we received a call about this incident, we shared her concern for the cats' safety and wanted to do what we could to help. This kind woman had provided care for these cats for years and we knew how upsetting it was to her to think of the cats being hurt or killed. With the help of a rescue partner, the five remaining cats were brought to our shelter. They received basic medical care and a few of them, including Millie, were either adopted through our Cat Barn Program or moved to our onsite Cat Barn — an indoor/outdoor space that has heat, air conditioning, and an enclosed yard where they can relax. The other two were social enough to be adopted and have since found loving homes.

### **Families in Crisis**

A family who was caring for a dog who had recently had 14 puppies called frantically after one of the puppies had injured his paw. They were doing their best to care for the new family, but had no money for medical care. We agreed to take in the injured puppy, provide it with medical care, and find it a loving home. The puppy received the necessary treatment, and then went into a loving foster home with our Dog Department Manager. When he recovered and was

ready to be adopted, our Dog Department Manager could not let him go, so she officially adopted the little one!

As we continued to talk with the family, we learned they still had ten puppies remaining from the litter. We were able to extend assistance and take in eight of the ten puppies which alleviated them of a lot of worry. The puppies all received basic medical care, vaccines, and were spayed and neutered at our in-house veterinary clinic. They were quickly adopted into loving homes. One



of them even became a client of our Public Dog Training Program due to a mild case of separation anxiety. Our trainers worked with the new family on this issue for a couple sessions and they are doing great.

The two puppies that did not come into our shelter remained with the family. We arranged to have them both spayed, and made sure mama dog was spayed too to ensure there would be no more surprise litters.

## The Heart and Soul of Faithful Friends



BY THE NUMBERS

342 Volunteers

Volunteer Roles help at the shelter, at home, or in the community

**Community Partners** 

203

Pet Life Line Hours dedicated by volunteers

16,515

Total hours dedicated by volunteers



