



**People Helping
Animals**
*and Animals
Helping People*

Dear Friends of the Animals,


The last year has certainly flown by in a blur for most of us, but here at Helen Woodward Animal Center I am proud to say that with our amazing staff working on-site day in and day out thousands of lives have been saved through our Adoptions program even as much of the rest of the world has been shut down. The challenges facing animal organizations around the country have never been greater and the need for our help has never been more critical. Each day we are faced with phone calls from groups in Texas, Louisiana, Hawaii and throughout California who are faced with euthanizing healthy, adoptable pets simply because they do not have the staff or resources to care for them. No one should be forced to make these types of life or death choices, especially not those who have dedicated their lives to the care of orphan pets. By working as a team to market these beautiful animals with social media, e-blasts, our newsletter, and our local media contacts we have achieved unprecedented success with our adoptions and we continue to raise the bar.

The Center's other programs were in full swing for the most part this past year with only a few challenges remaining facing Critter Camp with restrictions on participation due to CDC guidelines. Therapeutic Riding is seeing a full roster of clients and Pet Encounter Therapy has never experienced a greater demand for their services. Unfortunately, many pet therapy programs closed during the pandemic and have not reopened so we have a large waiting list and are trying to accommodate as many of them as possible. AniMeals added a special "Relief" arm at the beginning of the pandemic and continued throughout last year to provide pet food to those who had lost their jobs due to COVID and were suffering financial losses. Not only did we add 200 new regular AniMeals clients during the pandemic but we provided thousands of additional pounds of pet food to those in need. Our mobile unit has been out in the community providing spay/neuter and vaccine services to the homeless in San Diego through our many partnerships and despite COVID challenges, we never stopped helping those that needed us the most.

We've been happy to be able to provide the best veterinary care available during these challenging times at both our Companion Animal Hospital for small animals and our Equine Hospital. Both facilities have been extremely busy and with the veterinarian shortages we are pleased to be able to support our community in this way.

None of this life-saving work is possible without your support and we thank you for making 2021 a phenomenal year for Helen Woodward Animal Center and those we serve.

For a more humane world,



Michael M. Arms
President and CEO

BE INFORMED

Be in the know of events and fundraisers happening in our community, and across the globe. Subscribe to our e-newsletters, by visiting animalcenter.org and enjoy this publication.

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LinkedIn: Helen Woodward Animal Center



VOLUNTEER

Giving your time at any of our fundraising events, or donating your skills or experience to help on Center grounds are just some of the many ways you can help people and pets in need! Visit animalcenter.org to learn more.



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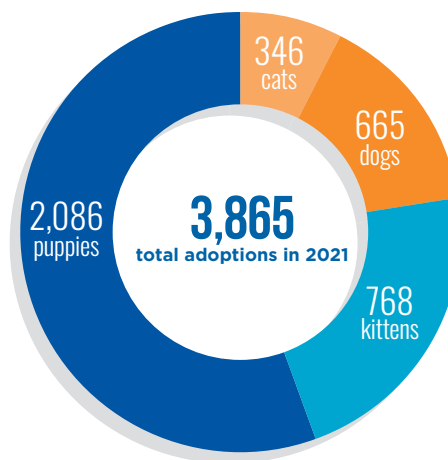
Roo's Story

Every week, dozens of orphan pets arrive at Helen Woodward Animal Center seeking a second chance at love, health, and stability. For some, their arrival at the Center is their only chance to receive the state-of-the-art medical care they deserve and the time they need to heal. One such orphan kitten arrived at the Center last October from our transfer partner in the Long Beach area. Just weeks old at the time, our medical staff immediately took notice of Roo. She ran a constant fever, had low energy, and jaundice. Despite initial treatment and medication, Roo's condition didn't improve, in fact, it got worse. Over the months that followed, our medical staff dedicated their time and energy to getting sweet Roo back on her feet. They continued running more tests and even sought out a specialist and found she was suffering from a rare life-threatening fungal infection. Her condition had even affected her eyes and vision. Roo has received the best medical care possible, getting constant check-ups, medications, and lots of love. Our network of foster families stepped up to provide her a comfortable environment as she continued her treatment and recovery. We are happy to say, Roo's fungal levels responded to treatment, she is now fully recovered and living her best life in her forever home in 2021.

2021 was another year filled with uncertainty around the world however one area of certainty is the need for orphan pets to be rescued. The Center was able to mobilize its resources to aid orphan pets around the US in the most difficult areas of the country. The Center's Adoption staff worked diligently and effectively to support underfunded shelters in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona along with its home state of California. The most vulnerable in our communities found a valuable protector in Helen Woodward Animal Center. The Adoptions Team was able to provide lifesaving medical treatments, nutritious meals and a warm place to rest for so many orphans in need. The Team was able to transport over 3,900 pets to the Center which represents the highest number of lives saved in our 50-year history. Along with the continued weekly efforts in rescuing pets the Adoptions Team was able to mobilize within 24 hours an urgent air transport prior to the ominous Hurricane Ida hitting Louisiana in August 2021.



Partnering with shelters across the low-lying flood zones of the bayou of Louisiana the Center was able to save over 70 high risk pets that would have had no chance of surviving a category 4 hurricane. As the Adoptions Team looks to the future one thing is sure, the continued need to save lives and the Center's ability to play a vital role in this monumental task.



DERIK

Adopted November 13, 2021

ANIMEALS



AniMeals has been providing no-cost pet food to low-income individuals, disabled military personnel and homebound seniors for over thirty-five years by partnering with organizations like Meals on Wheels, Jewish Family Services and Wounded Warriors.

We knew that COVID's financial impact on San Diego would be significant and we needed to expand AniMeals to meet the growing need so we partnered with Feeding San Diego to create a new program called AniMeals Relief. Individuals who could prove their job loss, would schedule an appointment to pick up a two week's supply of free pet food, as well as human food.

Here are the impressive stats for this program in 2021:

805

AVERAGE PETS SERVED PER MONTH

MEALS SERVED IN 2021

579,840

26,056

POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

REMEMBER ME THURSDAY®

2021's **RMT®** took place on Thursday, September 23rd as animal lovers across the world united their voices for orphan animals by honoring those pets we have lost and those waiting for their forever homes in shelters. Social media postings using the hashtags #RememberMeThursday and #SeeTheLight, as well as candle-lighting ceremonies, proclamations and even flag raisings, reminded the world that orphan animals need our help to raise awareness of their plight. The campaign, started only nine years ago by Helen Woodward Animal Center, has touched over 190 countries and has made over 2 billion social media impressions. For San Diegans, this special day was honored locally at Helen Woodward Animal Center's outdoor education pavilion and included words from RMT founder and Center President and CEO Mike Arms, a reading of the official RMT poem, a heartfelt international candle lighting and a virtual ceremony



BRITTANY ALDEAN

featuring representatives from such countries as Puerto Rico, Japan, Croatia, Kazakhstan and Canada. In addition to here in the United States, news networks picked up the story in Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Monaco, Turkey, Ireland, Spain, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, India, Canada, Netherlands, South Africa,

Malaysia, Australia, Mexico, Singapore, Afghanistan, and the United Kingdom. This year's Remember Me Thursday® Official Spokesperson, Brittany Aldean, wife of country music artist Jason Aldean, utilized her strong social media presence to promote the 9th Annual Remember Me Thursday® campaign to over 2M fans. Joining Aldean were over 100+ animal-loving celebrities, bloggers, influencers and social media-famous pets creating personal and meaningful posts asking the world to participate on the special day.

HOME 4 THE HOLIDAYS®

The **Home 4 The Holidays®** annual adoption campaign was a huge success. Helen Woodward Animal Center is excited to announce Ulster County SPCA as this year's winner of \$25,000 and a single-run dog kennel from Horizon Structures! Ulster County SPCA blew the judges away with their creative posts and vivid images as part of their #Home4theHolidays marketing campaign. As part of their adoption pushes, the shelter diversified its marketing and generated over 119,000 impressions through their weekly highlights of long term adoptables adorned in holiday wear.

Helen Woodward Animal Center along with Blue Buffalo aims to encourage people to adopt their next pet instead of buying one from a pet store or backyard breeder. 1,062,127 pets found their forever homes during the Home 4 the Holidays® campaign with the help of 4,188 organizations nationwide who participated during the holiday season.

HUMANE EDUCATION



Our **Education** programs were able to transition to more in-person programs throughout the year as updates were made to the CDC and county guidelines for K-12 schools and youth camps as more people became vaccinated and the county restrictions lessened. There was a significant resurgence

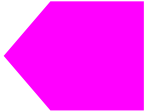
with Girl Scout programs and birthday parties which brought much needed celebrations to the Center. Our camps continued to have capacity restrictions due to space limitations for social distancing needs and over the year some programs were able to operate with more relaxed social distancing requirements since there's a mixture of adults and children.



The construction on Helen Woodward Animal Center's new Humane Education Village will begin in early 2023 and we look forward to completing this incredible facility that will be home to both Humane Education and Pet Encounter Therapy. With its uniquely themed

classrooms, all-inclusive playgrounds, outdoor animal presentation areas, brand new birthday rooms, and animal enclosures for all variety of animals from guinea pigs to snakes, it will be a model for humane education nationwide.

9,926 participants attended our humane education programs

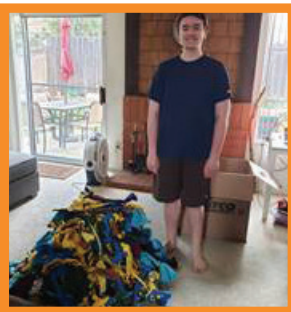


CHLOE

*Adopted
September 27, 2021*



While the **Volunteer** Department has had some challenges this year with recruitment and placement of volunteers due to COVID restrictions, we certainly are still seeing interest from the community. Through



orientations and events, we were able to recruit over 400 volunteers this year. Volunteers showed most interest with our Adoptions Department as well as our Club Pet Boarding Facility. We continue to receive interest from various local businesses including Harrah's, San Diego Loyal, and Bitchin' Sauce, which brought out large groups of

volunteers for larger projects. The Harrah's group came to the Center on Giving Tuesday to assist in reorganizing our event storage and help with the AniMeals Program. Harrah's has been a very active volunteer group with us during this annual event, and we were delighted

to have them return again. As a special thank you for their service, we provided lunch and a puppy playtime which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. This year, we also had two Eagle Scouts who completed a project for our Adoptions Department. Both of them enlisted about 20-40 other people to help make dog and cat toys and cozy blankets that will be given out to adoption clients. They made a total of 268 toys and 40 blankets.





COMPANION ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Helen Woodward Animal Center's state of the art **Companion Animal Hospital** is a small animal facility open to the public for treatment for cats and dogs. Our hospital not only takes care of the public's pets; which accounted for over 13,700 interactions in 2021, but also provides services to populations in need. Over \$60,000 of donated services including spay/neuter, vaccines, and flea/tick medications were received by E1-E-7 military families through the military fund at the hospital in 2021. This year, we welcomed over 2,000 new patients to our facility and hope to see more new furry faces in 2022.



Over **13,700** visits to Helen Woodward Animal Center's Companion Animal Hospital



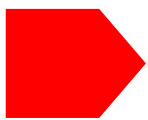
CLUB PET BOARDING

During the first half of 2021, **Club Pet's** continued focus was on daycare. As summer came and COVID restrictions lifted, our boarding reservations grew. We served a total number of clients and took in 5,974 reservations for daycare. We continue to strive to provide the highest quality care to each pet with us.



EQUINE HOSPITAL

Our **Equine Hospital** provides exceptional care to our equine population 24/7, 365 days a year. Our equine patients range from Olympic competitors to international show horses to the beloved backyard horse. We offer 100% digital radiography including abdominal radiographs and nuclear scintigraphy. Our surgical suite is completely equipped for fracture repair, colic surgeries, sinus surgery, laparoscopic and arthroscopic surgeries. We are also one of only two hospitals on the west coast providing a recovery pool for post anesthesia recovery.



323 equine patients received care

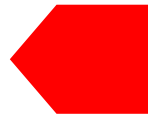


ORPHANED OBJECTS DESIGNER RESALE SHOP

Orphaned Objects is a boutique style resale shop where all the sales benefit the pets and programs at Helen Woodward

Animal Center. The resale shop has many unique items with something for everyone, whether it is designer furniture, housewares, clothes, jewelry, shoes, handbags and more. We have created important relationships with local consignment shops who donate items they are unable to sell, to help our mission. Our partners include: My Sister's Closet & Attic, Home Consignment Boutique in Rancho Santa Fe, and Maroufi Fine Rugs and Antiques in La Jolla. Our neighborhood donors can drop off their goods during business hours, obtain a tax receipt for their donation and arrange for pick up of large items. For consumers, the desire to reduce their negative impact on the planet through buying second-hand is not only more sustainable but stylish, too.

56,744 items were kept out of the landfills and reused to their full potential



PETS WITHOUT WALLS

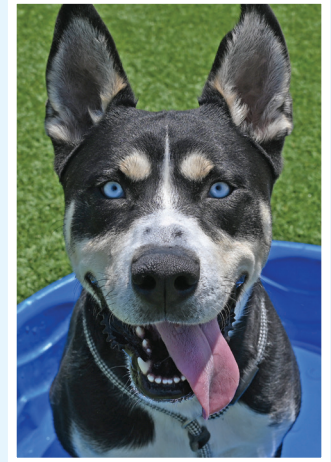
The **Pets Without Walls Program** is persevering through these hard times of COVID and continuing to provide care for companion animals of the homeless. During the pandemic, staffing shortages and San Diego

County restrictions limited the number of sites that could be visited, but that didn't stop us from going into the community to help those in need to provide no cost spays and neuters, flea and tick medication, and other necessary preventative medical care. Our focus is helping people and their companion animals because we understand the importance of keeping these animals and their people healthy. Towards the end of the year; with the help of donations, grants, and the helpful hands of caring people, the Pets Without Walls Program has once again begun to pick up. We are getting ready to launch our new program, Lewyt Mobile Pet Health + Wellness. This program is teaming up with San Diego Meals on Wheels to extend our reach to low income seniors. The program will kick off in early 2022 and provide care for low income and senior communities and their pets. Our goal is to be back up and running at full capacity as we were pre-COVID.

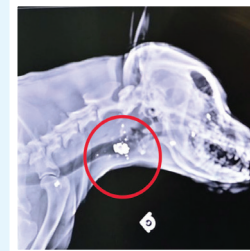
Curtis's Story

A Lesson in Forgiveness and Finding Joy Through Tragedy

As soon as the Center's medical staff opened Curtis's travel carrier, he leapt into their arms. This exuberant 4-year-old husky blend badly wanted attention, belly rubs and simply to feel loved. Given Curtis's joyful personality, you would never know of



his horrific past. In the late summer of 2021, Helen Woodward Animal Center's Adoptions Director, Hella Tyler received an email from a local shelter asking if the Center could take in a dog named Curtis. Tyler said the email contained one of the saddest animal cases she had ever seen. Curtis had been shot twice at close range with a high caliber bullet. X-rays showed shrapnel in his mouth and neck. He had open wounds, an injury to his front leg and shoulder, and lingering injuries from being hit by a car. He also walked with a limp. Overwhelmingly, Tyler's response to welcoming Curtis was 'yes!'. Curtis arrived at the Center full of energy. "It's unbelievable to see an animal that went through such horrific trauma and to see how happy he was and how full of love he was. He wanted to give everybody



kisses and hugs. It was amazing," Tyler explained. While Curtis had already received care at his previous shelter, he received a full medical checkup and it was determined that while Curtis was continuing to heal from his wounds, he was still severely underweight and needed surgery on his hip to give him the best possible life. At Helen Woodward Animal Center, Curtis could get his new beginning, not only the specialized medical care and therapeutic recovery he deserved, but the love and attention he craved. Shortly after arriving, Curtis underwent a successful surgery to repair his hip and regain comfort and mobility in his leg. While recovering, he continued to be his goofy self and deeply won the affection of Center staff and volunteers, particularly that of Dr. Carter's. "There are animals that touch you more than others and he touched my heart," Dr. Carter said. In early November, Curtis began his latest chapter when he was officially adopted into Dr. Carter's family. Curtis's second chance is only possible thanks to incredible donors who support the specialized medical care of orphan pets arriving at the Center. Often, pets like Curtis are not afforded this opportunity at shelters due to limited resources. Arriving at the Center allowed Curtis the gift of a new beginning.



P.E.T.

The best part of 2021 was when **Pet Encounter Therapy (PET)** was able to return to in-person/direct touch visits in June. The many Zoom calls, window visits, pen pal letters and Critter Drive-Ins were creative ways to reach our clients during the first part of the year (and were greatly appreciated) but the truest healing can only come from the animal, handler and client sharing the same space and forging a bond of unconditional acceptance and friendship. It is humbling and beautiful to watch what the animals and volunteers can accomplish in the time we share with our clients- memory care clients crying tears of joy as they could once again could hug the dogs, staff pointing out residents that have been isolating for months and now only come out for our visits, and the non-stop tail wagging of therapy dogs as they move from one hand to the next for petting. Over 160 direct-touch visits were provided in the last six months of 2021 and we look forward to providing hundreds more in 2022!



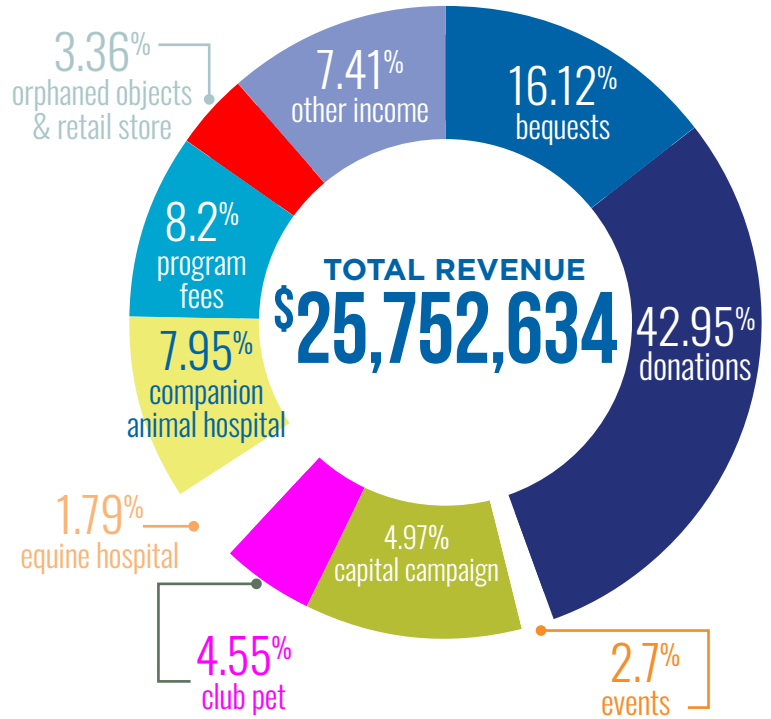
THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM

The **Therapeutic Riding Program** successfully and safely conducted the Annual Horse Show again this year after postponing in 2020 due to COVID. Twenty-four riders participated in an "Under the Sea" treasure hunt, and were rewarded with a beautiful ribbon and a gold medal. Having enough horses and volunteers has been a challenge this year. To solve this problem, we introduced the newly created Equine Assisted Learning Program (EAP). EAP's goal is to teach and support life skills through guided horse interactions. Since this program is unmounted, it allows us to work with more students without the added demand on volunteers and the horse. The mounted program continues its progress to return to its pre-COVID capacity, as well, aided by the increased number of volunteer orientations and hiring of a new instructor-in-training.

1,188 lessons were given in 2021 to 40 students

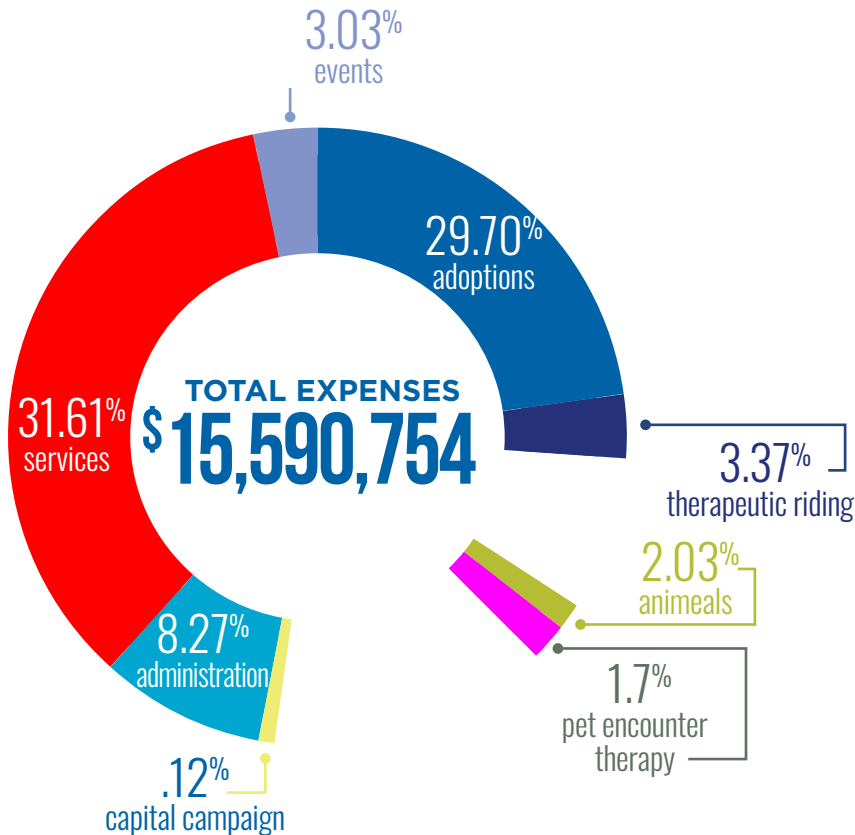


KATWO
Adopted April 4, 2021



FINANCIALS 2021*

Our full audited financials are available on-line at animalcenter.org



CURTIS
Adopted November 1, 2021



*Provisional.



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Helen Woodward Animal Center's passionate belief that animals help people and people help animals through trust, unconditional love, and respect, creates a legacy of caring. Sharing this philosophy with others, the Center inspires and teaches locally and globally, the importance of the animal human bond.