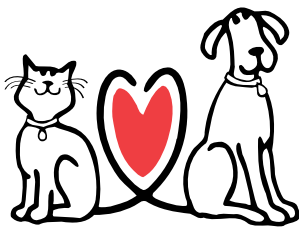


OTTAWA HUMANE SOCIETY

Annual Report

**2025
2026**

Because of YOU,
thousands of Ottawa's
animals found the
shelter, love and care
they desperately
needed. Thank you for
giving so many animals
in need a second
chance at a happy and
healthy life. Together,
we kept more pets in
the homes where they
are loved.



Ottawa
**HUMANE
SOCIETY**
S.P.A. Ottawa



To lead Ottawa in building a
humane and compassionate
community for all animals.

Fewer Homeless Animals, Deepening Challenges – The Future for Pets and the People Who Love Them

This year, your compassion gave thousands of Ottawa's animals shelter, care and a second chance. You also helped more pets remain in the homes where they are loved by supporting the Emergency Pet Food Bank, wellness clinics, accessible spay and neuter services, temporary emergency boarding and other essential community programs.

If you've been keeping a close eye on our stats, you may have noticed a small dip in the number of animals admitted to the Ottawa Humane Society. This is because you have helped prevent homelessness, kept pets and their people together and ensured we are ready for animals with nowhere else to turn. Thank you for being part of this work; your commitment and compassion made the past year possible.

The bond between people and their pets is deepening, but new challenges are emerging. More people see pets as members of their family and will go to extraordinary lengths to care for them. This is the compassionate community we have worked together to build. At the same time, essential veterinary care is falling out of reach for more families. For too many pets, a treatable health concern can become a serious condition because their people could not access help.

The result is suffering for animals and heartbreaking choices for the people who love them. Some pets remain at home but go without essential treatment. By the time a family reaches a crisis, an animal may have endured significant pain and their person may feel they have failed a beloved family member.

We've started preparing a better way forward. With your support, we laid the groundwork for a non-profit Community Veterinary Clinic that will provide essential care for pets who might otherwise go without. The

clinic, located in Vanier, will address pet care concerns earlier, prevent suffering and keep more pets with the families who love them. We've purchased the building thanks to the generous commitment of past legacy donors, and with our community's ongoing support we will be able to renovate the space, to open in April 2028.

This work represents the next step in strengthening Ottawa's safety net for pets. We will be here for homeless animals when they need urgent shelter and prevent pets from reaching a crisis that tears them from their people.

Thank you for making second chances possible and for helping to build a more humane and compassionate Ottawa. Together, we can create a future where fewer animals become homeless, more pets receive the care they need and families can stay together.



Sharon Miko
President & CEO



Jean Nelson
Chair of the Board



By the Numbers: You Save Lives

Weaving a Safety Net for Maedder



Maedder after
life-saving surgery.

Thanks to you, animals like Maedder have a safe place to land. Maedder's owner rushed him to an emergency veterinary clinic after he accidentally swallowed a sewing needle. His owner could not afford the treatment, and they made the heartbreaking decision to surrender him. Because of your ongoing support, our team had the surgical equipment, medication and expertise needed to provide him life-saving care.

Because you had already invested in life-saving veterinary care, our medical team could act immediately. Within hours, the needle was removed and his recovery had begun. Together, we're working toward a future where more pets receive the care they need before families are forced to make an impossible decision. Thank you for making life-saving veterinary care possible for animals like Maedder.

With your support,
in 2025/26, OHS
veterinarians
performed 2,545
surgeries for Ottawa's
homeless animals.

Thanks to you, the animals received

Spays and neuters: 2,426

Dental procedures: 611

X-rays: 557

Diagnostic procedures: 157

Surgeries completed

2025/26: 2,545

2024/25: 2,790

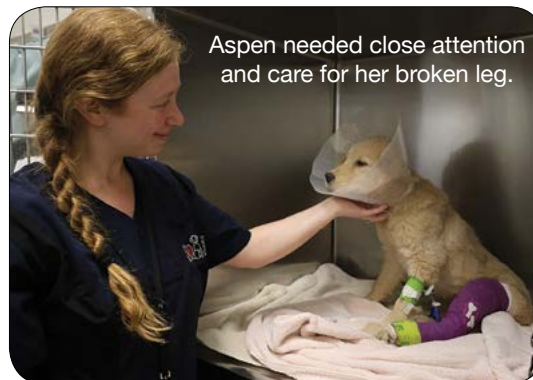
2023/24: 2,463

2022/23: 2,054

2021/22: 1,341

From Broken Leg to New Beginning

Alone, scared and hurt, six-month-old Aspen was found outside with a broken leg. Your support gave Aspen critical shelter, warmth and relief from her pain. It also meant our dedicated veterinary team could examine her injured leg and perform an essential surgery that started her path to healing.



Aspen needed weeks of rest in the care of a loving foster volunteer. Day by day, she grew a little stronger and with time, patience and care, Aspen got back to being the playful, joyful puppy she was meant to be.

You made every stage of her recovery possible, from the surgery and veterinary care to a foster home and the time she needed to heal. When Aspen was ready, she was adopted into her forever family and got her second chance. Thank you for giving Aspen, and thousands of vulnerable animals across Ottawa, the life-saving shelter and care they need to begin their next chapter.



Making a Huge Impact for the Animals

OHS veterinarians are supported by many incredible volunteer veterinarians. In 2025/26, volunteer veterinarians donated an amazing 246 hours to saving animals!

Thank you:

Dr. Allison Cooper

Dr. Andrea Leask

Dr. Denis Philibert

Dr. Don Caldwell

Dr. Glenys Hughes

Dr. Janet Biggar

Dr. Perminder Bansal

Dr. Veronica Feigel

You Find New Homes for Pets in Need

Daphne's Long Road Home



Daphne is an adorable bunny who was born at the shelter in 2024, and you made sure she had love and care at every step and hop of her journey.

Rabbits are often some of the most overlooked animals for adoption, taking months or even years before being adopted by a new family.

Thanks to you, there is no time

limit for animals at the OHS to find their second chance. After waiting for months, receiving a spay surgery, and relaxing in the care of a youth foster volunteer, Daphne was adopted into a new home, but that wasn't the end of her journey.

Daphne's new home wasn't the right fit and she was returned to the shelter. We were crestfallen to see her back, but determined to find her another adopter who could meet her needs and love her forever. Several months passed with no one showing interest in Daphne, but on Valentine's Day of 2026, something magical happened — Daphne found love with a new person.

Today, because you cared and made sure there was no time limit on Daphne, she is enjoying life in her forever home. Thank you so much for making second chances possible for thousands of homeless animals last year and ensuring more people can share their lives with a pet.



Ladybug, October 2025



Sunny, November 2025



Camila, April 2025



Julius, June 2025



Toby, March 2026



Danish, November 2025



Duke, February 2026



Bear, August 2025



Snowy, March 2026



Jello, October 2025



Tom, November 2025



Momo, July 2025

Total pets adopted

2025/26: 3,011

2024/25: 3,414

2023/24: 2,962

2022/23: 2,596

2021/22: 1,632

Pets adopted

Cats and kittens: 2,075

Dogs and puppies: 513

Other pets: 423

YOU Keep Pets with the Families Who Love Them

Missing for a Year — Reunited in a Moment

When a pet arrives in our care, we immediately check them for a microchip as part of our process to trace a potential owner. This simple scan can help us get lost pets home fast. In November, a handsome black cat named Onyx was brought out of the fall chill and into our care.

We found a microchip on Onyx and called the registered phone number. Onyx's owner could hardly believe it — he had been missing for an entire year! Onyx's person came to the shelter only hours later, thrilled to be reunited with her beloved cat. It looked like the pair picked things right back up from where they left off an entire year ago!



A quick microchip scan helped us reach his family and reunite them

Your generous support means every animal who arrives at the OHS receives the care and attention they need. That includes something as simple and as powerful as a microchip scan. For Onyx and his owner, that scan ended a year of uncertainty and worry with a single call.

**Cats spayed/
neutered through
community spay/
neuter service
601**

**Lost pets reunited
with their families**
Cats and kittens: 231
Dogs and puppies: 364
Other pets: 16

Total
2025/26: 611
2024/25: 635
2023/24: 600
2022/23: 599
2021/22: 441

**Food distributed
through pet food
banks
7,527 kg**

You Kept a Family Together Through Crisis

Thanks to your incredible support, our Sheltering Animals From Emergencies (SAFE) program helps keep pets and families together when crisis strikes. Through SAFE, owned pets can stay temporarily with dedicated foster volunteers, while families navigate serious challenges. Your compassion gives people time to get back on their feet without having to give up their beloved pet.

When Paul faced hospitalization for surgery, he worried he wouldn't be able to care for his dog, Sammy. Because you care, this family was able to stay together.

Your help gave Sammy a safe, loving temporary home to stay, while Paul focused on his recovery. Once he was ready, Paul and Sammy were reunited. For Paul, SAFE meant knowing Sammy was cared for when he could not be there. For Sammy, it meant returning home to the person she loved. Thank you for helping families weather a crisis without losing one another!



**Number of pets
microchipped at clinics
343**

**Pets helped through
wellness clinics
211**

**87
pets supported through
the SAFE program.**

You Were There for 19 Kittens in a Box



You were the first to respond when 19 kittens were found abandoned in a box at Riverview Park. They were scared, cold, hungry, and dehydrated. They were thin and their ears and coats were crawling with mites, but you were there for them. These kittens were among 42 cats who were admitted to the OHS in a single day. That was 42 animals who you made sure had the life-saving shelter, treatment and love they desperately needed.

Thanks to you, we were ready to welcome all of these cats with open arms and start the hard work of assessing and meeting their needs. While we were able to quickly intervene and save the

majority of the Riverview Park kittens, three were sadly too sick to be saved.

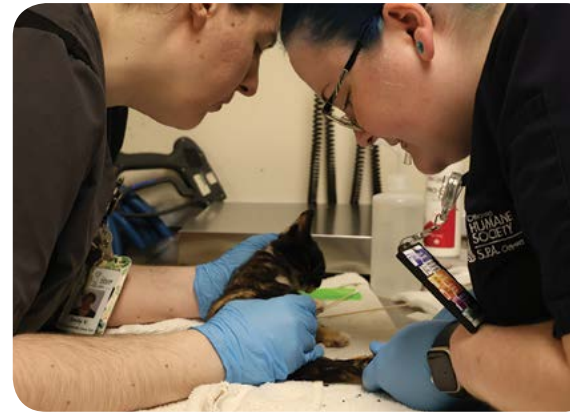
But because of you, the remaining kittens were warm, safe and surrounded by compassion. They were not alone.

Sixteen kittens went on to complete families of their own and bring the joys that only a pet can to sixteen new families in the community.

We'll never know why these kittens were abandoned in a box. Their story reminds us that helping animals also means helping people before they reach a crisis. When people can access care, food, temporary shelter and other supports, more pets can remain safely with the people who love them.

We know the cost of caring for a pet is a top concern for Ottawa's pet owners. Just as important as finding homes for pets is making sure pets and people don't have to separate in the first place. You're helping us work hard to create new supports to keep pets with their loving families.

When staying together isn't possible, thanks to you, the OHS is here to help.



OHS Life-Saving Statistics

Thank You for Helping 7,470 Animals in Need

The OHS is a safe haven for Ottawa's homeless and vulnerable animals. This past year, the OHS admitted 1,793 pets surrendered by their owners because they could no longer care for them, 3,454 stray animals, 1,583 wild animals and 640 from other sources. This includes:

3,694 Cats

1,573 Dogs

620 Small animals

1,583 wildlife

Animals helped

2024/25: 7,703

2023/24: 6,685

2022/23: 5,378

2021/22: 4,597

ZERO
animals turned
away

100%
placement rate
for healthy cats and dogs

74%
Live release
rate

We collect and report our statistics according to a widely recognized North American formula used for animal shelters. This formula allows us to calculate our "live release rate," which is the placement rate for all cats and dogs that come to us regardless of their age, temperament or physical condition.

98.9%
placement rate

for treatable/manageable
cats and dogs

Animals who are not healthy – and likely not to become healthy regardless of the care provided – but will likely maintain a satisfactory quality of life if given long-term medical, foster, behavioural, or other care.

100%
placement rate

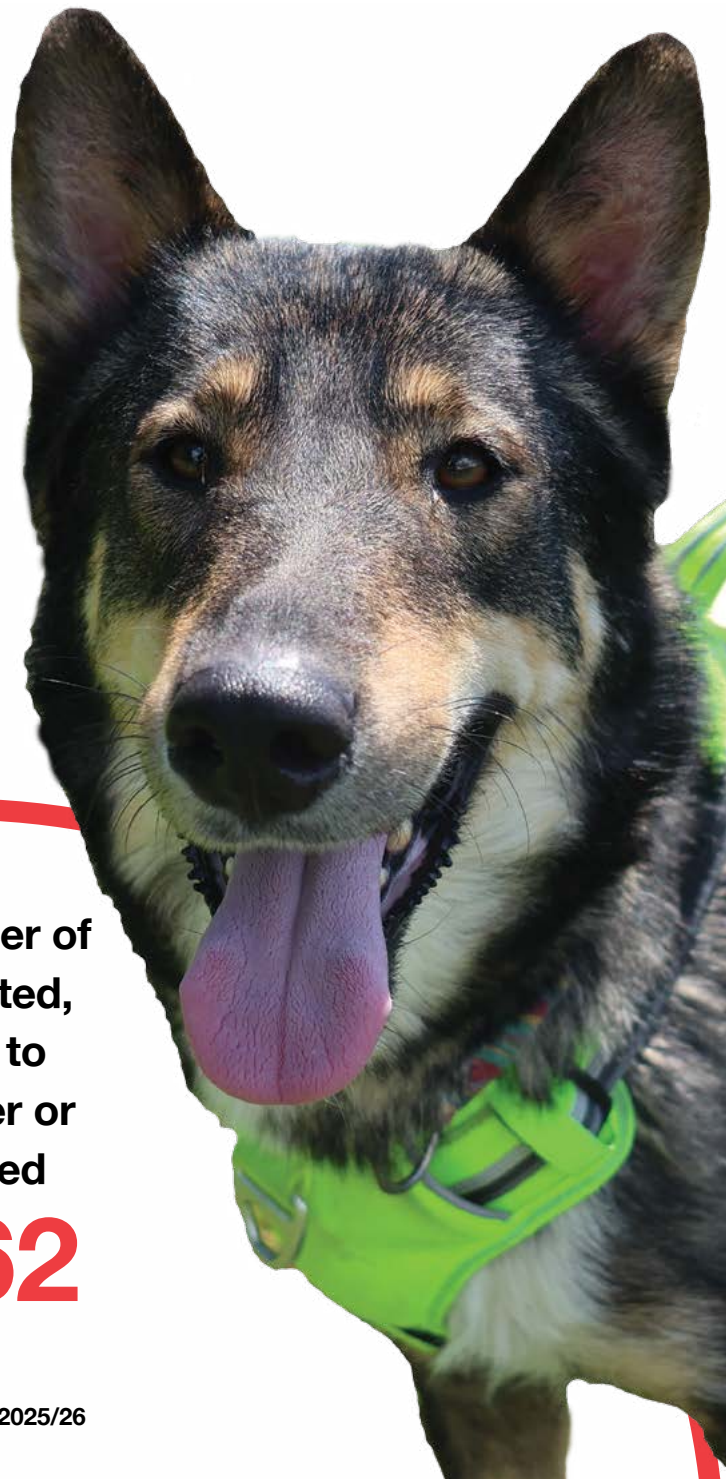
for treatable/rehabilitatable
cats and dogs

Animals who are not healthy, but likely to become healthy if given medical, foster, behavioural, or other care.

Of the 1,661 pets that were humanely euthanized, 25.1 per cent were requested by their owners for serious medical or behavioural issues; 53.1 per cent had serious medical issues; 20.3 per cent had serious behaviour issues such as aggression or extreme fear; and 1.5 per cent had a combination of medical and behaviour issues.

Total number of
pets adopted,
returned to
their owner or
transferred

3,762



You Go Above and Beyond for the Animals

You Helped a Fearful Cat Learn to Trust

When Willow was found lost and alone outdoors, you were there to help. His left hind paw was fractured and twisted in the wrong direction, leaving him in pain and unable to walk properly. Willow's injury was severe, causing him to limp with every step. Removing his injured leg was the most compassionate option to give him the chance to live a full, happy life.



Willow was very shy when he first entered our care.

Because of you, Willow received life-saving surgery, the veterinary care he desperately needed and a safe place to recover. But his injured leg was not the only hurdle he was facing.

Willow was shy and fearful around people. After spending an unknown amount of time outdoors, he needed patience, gentle care and space to begin feeling safe. Your support gave him that time. With the one-on-one attention of an experienced foster volunteer, Willow started coming out of his shell. Little-by-little he became more comfortable with people while also learning to move confidently on three legs. For some of the most shy and fearful cats, patience, gentle care and reassurance can make all the difference. Thank you for making sure animals like Willow have the time to recover and thrive.



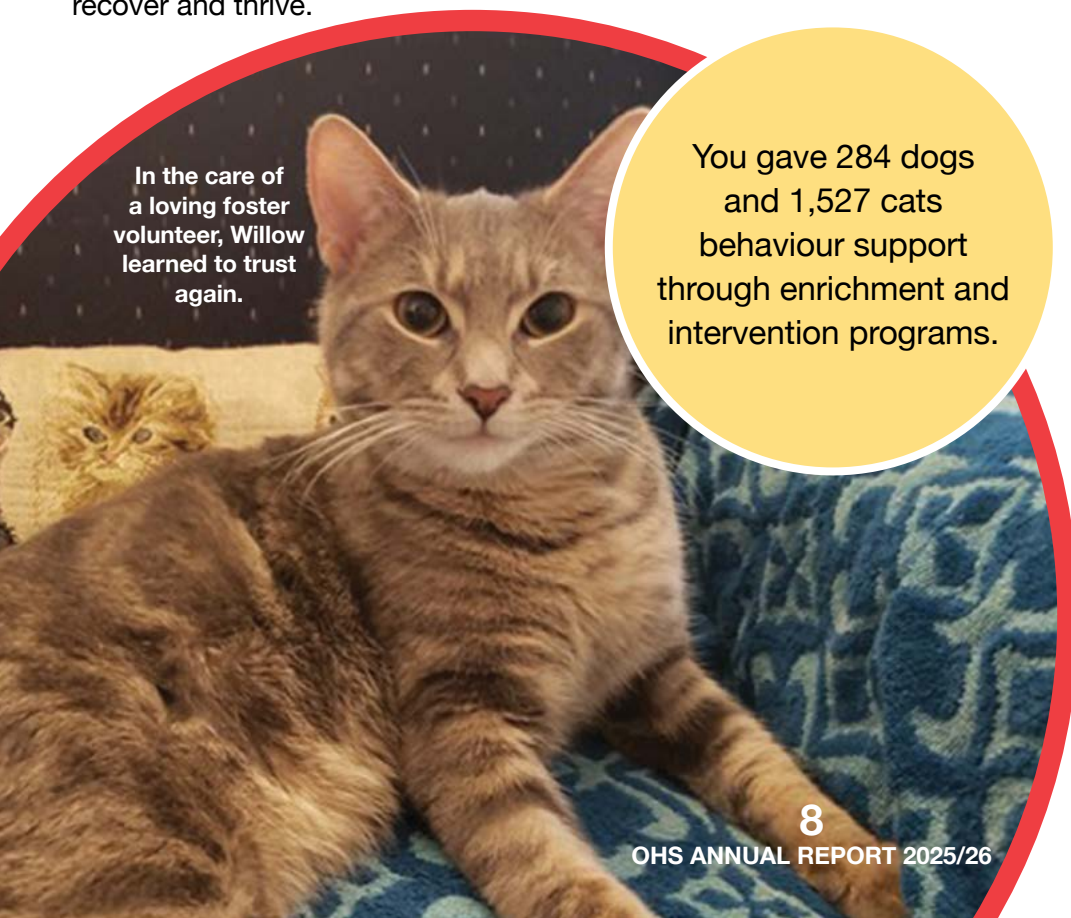
More Second Chances for Fearful Pets

An increasing number of cats and dogs with complex behaviour needs are admitted to the OHS each year. For an animal with challenging behaviour needs, space and time are two of the most important supports they need to manage their behaviour and prepare for life with their forever family.

Providing more support for animals with complex behaviour needs is a major focus of our Compassion Campaign. We are working to build new, enriching spaces to help animals with challenging behaviours unwind, adjust to life in the shelter, and find their forever families. Planning for the future is good, but we know animals need help today.

Last year we met with a focus group of feline advocates and explored how to develop low-stimulation decompression spaces for fearful cats. These spaces would be smaller and include soundproofing, dimmable lighting, visual barriers, hiding areas, vertical enrichment, and predictable daily routines.

Our next step is creating this new, low-stress space in the shelter for some of our most shy and fearful felines. The space will support cats in decompressing and showing their true personalities. We are excited to pilot this new support this year!



In the care of a loving foster volunteer, Willow learned to trust again.

You gave 284 dogs and 1,527 cats behaviour support through enrichment and intervention programs.

Thank You for Your Gift of Time

Volunteers Help Ottawa's Dogs

More dogs are arriving at the OHS with complex behaviour needs. Thanks to you, shelter, care and second chances are available for the dogs who need it most. Canine enrichment volunteers like Greg are an essential part of how we support dogs in need.

Greg gives Ottawa's dogs the attention, love and exercise they need to stay happy and healthy until they find their forever home.

We asked Greg what his favourite part is about volunteering for the animals and he shared: "When I started volunteering, my motivation was simple: I just wanted to help the dogs. Now the thing I enjoy most is seeing the joy that the OHS brings to so many, both furry and human."



Thanks to you and our incredible volunteers like Greg, more second chances are possible for Ottawa's most vulnerable animals.

OHS volunteers show up in a big way for the animals.

Total volunteers

1,000

Total volunteer hours

69,703

Last year, 552 foster volunteers gave a second chance to

871 cats

182 dogs

138 other animals

Volunteers Help Meet an Essential Need

Thanks to your support, we are able to keep more pets with the families who love them through essential services like our Emergency Pet Food Bank.

Because you care, every week, pet owners in need are able to access essential food and supplies for their pets.

Volunteers are a key part of our Emergency Pet Food Bank. Penny

is one of our amazing volunteers who helps ensure families in need have access to emergency pet food that can make all the difference in keeping a pet in the home where they are loved.

Thanks to your support and the help of volunteers like Penny, more pets were able to stay with the families who love them last year.

"I had imagined I'd be working hands-on with animals, but life has a way of placing you exactly where you're meant to be. Through the Emergency Pet Food Program, I've been able to offer relief to families who simply want to keep their pets safe, fed, and at home where they belong." — Penny



A Community in Action

You Helped Build a More Humane Future

Because you care deeply about animals, your impact reaches far beyond the walls of the OHS. When animals needed protection, your voice joined thousands of others calling for change through signing petitions and sending letters to government officials. Throughout this past year, compassionate supporters like you helped build momentum for stronger animal welfare across Ontario that built better laws, informed public policy and higher standards of care.

Your work is already making a difference. Beginning in 2027, Ontario will ban invasive

testing on cats and dogs, and unnecessary cosmetic procedures like declawing, devocalization and ear cropping will be prohibited.

This progress was only possible because of the compassion of animal advocates, like you, who demanded better protections for the animals.

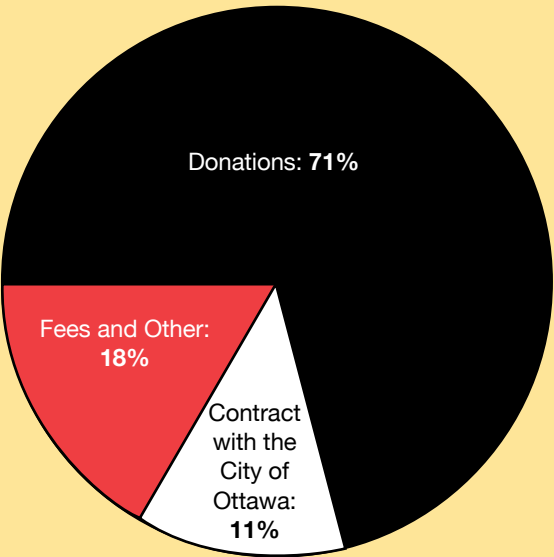
These changes show that when people who care about animals speak up together, progress is possible. It recognizes that animals deserve care, protection and compassion.

Your generosity, your compassion and your commitment are helping build a brighter future where animals receive the respect and protection they deserve.

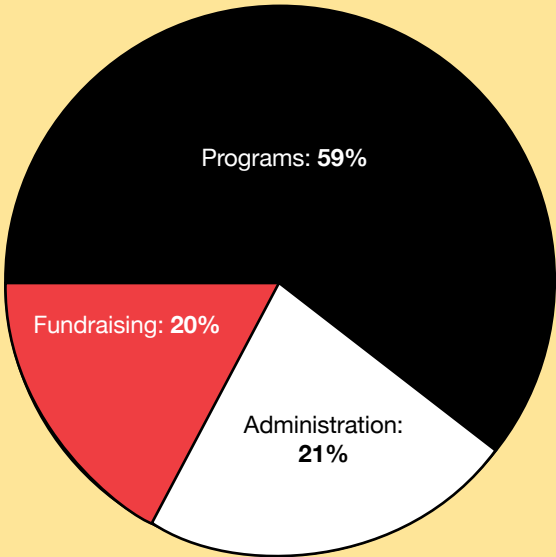


OHS Resource Breakdown

This chart shows where the financial resources of the OHS come from:



This chart show how OHS resources are used to help animals:



Building an Even More Pet-Friendly Community

Because of you, Ottawa is becoming even more pet-friendly. Whether out on a leash, spotted through a car window or a surprise run in at a business that welcomes pets, there's a special joy about seeing a pet out in the community.

To help even more people experience the happiness of meeting a friendly pet, we kicked off a new photo competition in the summer, challenging dog owners to bring their pet to a Dog-Friendly Business and share a photo of their outing.

When a dog can come along, it's a great opportunity to build the



bond between the person and their pet, further develop the dog's social skills, and maybe even encourage other people in the community to consider adopting a dog.

Our Dog-Friendly Business program is focused on making it easy as possible to plan an outing with a dog and help ensure that no one ever feels they have to chance leaving their dog alone in a car. It's one of our ways of helping Ottawa become even more pet-friendly.

Thank you helping to make Ottawa a more dog-friendly community!

Number of kids reached through school presentations and camps*

2025/26: 5,774

2024/25: 7,087

2023/24: 6,653

2022/23: 7,863

2021/22: 1,825

*In 2025/26, our school presentation program was impacted by a year of significant change across the school system, including changing policies and administrative processes. We adapted by redirecting resources to our shelter tours for Scouts and Guides, increasing participation from 700 kids to 1,230!

We're also happy to report that we've made updates to our school presentation program to better support local teachers and meet the evolving needs of schools. With these changes in place, we're looking forward to reaching more students and continuing to support educators in 2026/27.



314

dogs attended OHS dog training courses with their people to receive behaviour help and support pet retention.

132

people attended OHS pet first aid courses to make sure they are ready for emergencies.

217

participants attended OHS Pet Loss Support Groups for peer support after losing a pet.

487

people attended online webinars to help them manage their pet's behaviour.



The OHS has achieved accreditation with Imagine Canada, demonstrating excellence in board governance, financial accountability, fundraising, staff management and volunteer involvement.

The OHS has achieved accreditation with Humane Canada, demonstrating leadership in all aspects of sheltering, animal care, outreach, education and advocacy.

The Humane Canada Accreditation Program mark is a licensed mark of Humane Canada used under licence by the Ottawa Humane Society.

The Standards Program Trustmark is a mark of Imagine Canada used under licence by the Ottawa Humane Society.



Thank You to Our Supporters

The Ottawa Humane Society is grateful to receive support from thousands of individuals and organizations every year. We want to express our deepest gratitude for every gift, large or small. Your support helps Ottawa's homeless animals when they need it most. To all who have generously contributed throughout the past fiscal year, we extend our heartfelt appreciation. You have led and continue to lead Ottawa in building a humane and compassionate community for all animals. Visit ottawahumane.ca/supporter for the list of donors who contributed \$1,000 or more in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

Glossary

Admitted to the OHS

Refers to an animal arriving at the OHS whether as a stray, surrendered by their own owner or in protective care.

Behaviour

How an animal acts in a situation. For example, a dog who barks or lunges at other dogs, people or animals may need support to manage their behaviour. A cat who is affectionate towards people and other animals and is comfortable being touched likely does not need support for their behaviour.

Community

Residents living in the National Capital Region.

Care

Meeting the basic needs of an animal (food, water, shelter), their veterinary needs and their mental and behavioural needs.

Forever home/family

The person or people who adopt a pet from the OHS.

Homeless animals

Animals who do not have a legal owner.

Overpopulation

Occurs when there are more pets than people willing to adopt them. Often results in a higher number of animals sheltered at the OHS.

Protective care

Occurs when an owner is unable to take care of their pet as a result of a medical emergency, house fire, incarceration or other circumstances. The OHS temporarily cares for the animal while the owner makes separate arrangements for the animal.

Surrender

When a person transfers ownership of their pet to the OHS.

Turned away

To deny admitting an animal to the OHS. The OHS does not turn away animals, but may schedule a date to admit the animal depending on their needs and the OHS's resources.