

2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



 **cincinnati animal CARE**
the hamilton county shelter & resource center

Cincinnati Animal CARE Humane Society EIN# 85-2177478

Cincinnati Animal CARE Humane Society 2025 Annual Report



2025 marked another transformative year for Cincinnati Animal CARE. Fueled by the generosity of our community and the dedication of our team, we expanded lifesaving programs, strengthened organizational capacity, and achieved new levels of impact for animals and people across Hamilton County.

As Hamilton County's animal shelter and sole provider of animal control services, Cincinnati Animal CARE continued to grow its ability to meet the complex needs of our community. In 2025, we invested in critical medical and operational infrastructure, expanded volunteer and foster engagement, surpassed \$1 million in annual fundraising, and maintained our commitment to no-kill operations for the fifth consecutive year.

The pages that follow highlight the programs, people, partnerships, and community support that made these achievements possible — and reflect what can happen when a community comes together on behalf of animals in need.



A Message from the President & CEO

Dear Friends of Cincinnati Animal CARE,

When we founded Cincinnati Animal CARE, our goal was to demonstrate that public sheltering could look different — **that a municipal shelter could be both operationally strong and deeply compassionate**, while creating better outcomes for animals and the community it serves. Together, we have shown what is possible when lifesaving work is supported by an engaged community.

We set out to build a different kind of animal welfare organization: one focused not only on saving lives, but on creating sustainable solutions for animals and the people who care about them. Each year since, we have continued to grow, learn, and strengthen the systems needed to serve our community.

As Hamilton County's animal shelter and sole provider of animal control services, our work carries tremendous responsibility. We are entrusted with animals in their most vulnerable moments while also supporting families, responding to community needs, and creating pathways to better outcomes. This requires more than compassion alone — it requires strong operations, committed people, community partnerships, and the willingness to continuously improve.

In 2025, we expanded our lifesaving capacity, strengthened our medical and operational infrastructure, grew volunteer and foster engagement, surpassed \$1 million in annual fundraising, and maintained our commitment to no-kill operations for the fifth consecutive year. **These accomplishments represent thousands of individual moments of care, connection, and second chances.**

The progress highlighted in this report belongs to our entire community. Our dedicated staff show up every day with resilience and compassion. Our volunteers and fosters provide critical support. Our donors and partners make expanded lifesaving possible. Our Board of Directors provides governance, oversight, and strategic guidance as we continue building the future of animal welfare in Hamilton County.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to this journey. Because of your support, Cincinnati Animal CARE is not only changing outcomes for animals today — **we are helping create a stronger, more compassionate community for generations to come.**

Thank you for believing in this mission and for being part of what we are building together.

With gratitude,



Carolyn Evans
President & Chief Executive Officer
Cincinnati Animal CARE

Executive Leadership Team

Cincinnati Animal CARE's executive leadership team brings together decades of expertise in business operations, animal welfare, veterinary medicine, organizational leadership, and community-based lifesaving. United by a shared commitment to improving outcomes for animals and people, this team has led the organization through transformational growth, operational expansion, and the development of innovative programs that serve the evolving needs of our community.

Together, they provide the vision, experience, and leadership necessary to advance Cincinnati Animal CARE's mission while building a sustainable future for animal welfare in Hamilton County and beyond.



Carolyn Evans, MBA

President & Chief Executive Officer

Carolyn Evans is President & CEO and a founding member of Cincinnati Animal CARE. With more than 20 years of experience building and leading animal welfare organizations throughout the region, she has played a pivotal role in building several transformative animal welfare organizations and initiatives, including United Coalition for Animals (UCAN), My Furry Valentine, Clermont Animal CARE, and Cincinnati Animal CARE.

Prior to helping launch Cincinnati Animal CARE, Carolyn co-founded Clermont Animal CARE and served as its Executive Director. Before entering animal welfare, she spent a decade in the private sector as a management consultant, experience she continues to draw upon in leading the organization's strategic growth, operational excellence, and lifesaving mission.

Carolyn is a graduate of the inaugural Best Friends Animal Society/Southern Utah University Executive Leadership Certification Program, the first post-secondary leadership program designed specifically for animal welfare professionals. She holds a Master of Business Administration from The Ohio State University.

Executive Leadership Team



Meaghan Colville, MSEd

Chief Operating Officer

Meaghan Colville is a co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of Cincinnati Animal CARE, and interim Chief Dog Warden. A Certified State Humane Agent with more than 15 years of experience in animal welfare and shelter operations, Meaghan has dedicated her career to advancing innovative, compassionate solutions for animals and the people who care for them.

Before helping establish Cincinnati Animal CARE, Meaghan served in leadership roles with several respected animal welfare organizations, including Clermont Animal CARE, Ohio Alleycat Resource, SPCA Cincinnati, and the Los Angeles SPCA. Her expertise spans shelter operations, humane education, volunteer engagement, and surrender prevention programs.

A nationally recognized speaker and trainer, Meaghan holds a Master of Science in Education from Canisius College and a Bachelor of Science in Education from The Ohio State University. She has completed extensive professional training and certification programs focused on animal sheltering, leadership, and organizational development.



Amanda Gilbert, RVT, VTS (ECC)

Medical Director

Amanda Gilbert serves as Medical Director for Cincinnati Animal CARE and is a founding member of the organization. A Veterinary Technician Specialist in Emergency and Critical Care, Amanda brings more than 20 years of experience in veterinary medicine, including extensive leadership experience in emergency and specialty practice.

Prior to joining Cincinnati Animal CARE, Amanda spent much of her career at MedVet Medical and Cancer Care Center, where she managed intensive care operations and led multidisciplinary teams in 24-hour emergency and critical care settings. She also previously served as Medical Director for Clermont Animal CARE.

Amanda is a graduate of the Maddie's Fund Clinic Management Apprenticeship Program and is a Certified State Humane Agent, Fear-Free Certified professional, and Site Instructor for both the Penn Foster and University of Cincinnati Veterinary Technician Programs.

Board of Directors

Cincinnati Animal CARE is guided by a dedicated Board of Directors that provides strategic oversight, governance, and community leadership in support of the organization's mission. As CAC has grown from a newly established organization into Hamilton County's municipal animal shelter and provider of animal control services, the Board has evolved alongside the organization — bringing together diverse expertise, professional leadership, and community perspective to support sustainable growth.

Representing a wide range of experience across business, finance, communications, veterinary medicine, insurance, banking, and public service, the Board provides valuable guidance and accountability as Cincinnati Animal CARE continues to strengthen operations, expand lifesaving programs, and serve the evolving needs of animals and people throughout the community.

Together, the Board of Directors and executive leadership team work collaboratively to advance Cincinnati Animal CARE's mission, ensure responsible stewardship of resources, and build a sustainable future for animal welfare in Hamilton County and beyond.

Board Members:

- **Michele Martin-Hisnay, Chair;** (Managing Director, Fidelity)
- **Gretchen Goode, DVM, Vice-Chair;** (Veterinarian, Eastgate Animal Hospital)
- **Steve Rolls, MBA, Treasurer;** (CFO, Education at Work, Heritage Home Group, Global Energy, Convergys, BF Goodrich, retired)
- **Carol Sanger, Secretary;** (Vice President of Corporate Communications and External Affairs, Federated Department Stores, retired)
- **Tyler Beck, MBA;** (Vice President, Febreze North America, Procter & Gamble)
- **Sako Blair;** (Business Performance Advisor, Insperity)
- **Adam Herr;** (Senior Vice President, Commercial Division Manager, Stock Yards Bank & Trust)
- **Jeff Hoffman, CPA;** (Chief Financial Officer, Kona Ice)
- **Vic Parker, MBA, MSOL, CEBS, CFSS;** (Regional Sales Vice President, HM Insurance Group)

Ex Officio:

- **John Bruggen, MPA;** (Assistant County Administrator, Hamilton County Government)

Vision, Mission and Values

VISION: We envision a community where all animals are valued, protected and have a safe place to call home.

MISSION: We meet the immediate needs of animals in our community through individualized care, life saving solutions and temporary shelter en-route to a safe, compatible home.

VALUES: Saving lives requires more than good intentions, it requires commitment, teamwork, courage, and a shared belief that every action matters. Our values define the way we approach our work: with urgency, compassion, accountability, and respect.

These principles guide our daily decisions, from caring for animals in crisis to serving our community and supporting one another. Together, they represent the culture we continue to build — one focused on excellence, trust, and creating the best possible outcomes for animals and people.

EXCELLENCE: We hold ourselves to high standards and continually improve to deliver the best outcomes. We take pride in the results we deliver.

HUSTLE: We move with urgency and purpose. We stay focused, pivot when needed, and recognize that we are in a lifesaving business and every minute is an opportunity to positively impact the animals in our care.

COURAGE: We step outside our comfort zones. We ask for help, have honest and difficult conversations, embrace change, and stay open to feedback, even when it's hard. We courageously squash negativity so a healthy, solutions-focused culture can thrive.

COLLABORATION: We are stronger together. Staff, Board, volunteers, fosters, supporters, and our community work side-by-side toward a shared mission. We listen, support one another, and build trust.

INTEGRITY: We do what is right — not just what is easy. We act with honesty, follow through on commitments, admit mistakes, and learn from them. We treat every person and animal with respect and dignity, and we value transparency and humility.

TRUST: We assume positive intent and believe in one another's commitment to the mission. We communicate openly, support each other, and create an environment where people and teams can succeed together.

COMPASSION: We lead with empathy — for the animals, for the people we serve, for our colleagues, and for ourselves.

SAFETY: We prioritize the physical and emotional safety of animals, staff, fosters, volunteers, and our community in every decision and setting, and we report concerns promptly.

Program Service Accomplishments

Behind every number is a life changed — an animal given a second chance, a family supported, and a community strengthened. In 2025, Cincinnati Animal CARE continued to expand its reach and impact through lifesaving, community partnerships, and innovative solutions designed to keep people and pets together while creating better outcomes for animals in need.



2025 By the Numbers

\$1,020,953 Total Fundraising

4,644 Total Surgeries

5,939 Total Adoptions

8,528 Total Intakes

10,404

61,276

42,783

93.7%

Foster Placements

Recorded Volunteer and Foster Hours

Miles Walked by Volunteers

Maintained No-Kill Status for Fifth Consecutive Year

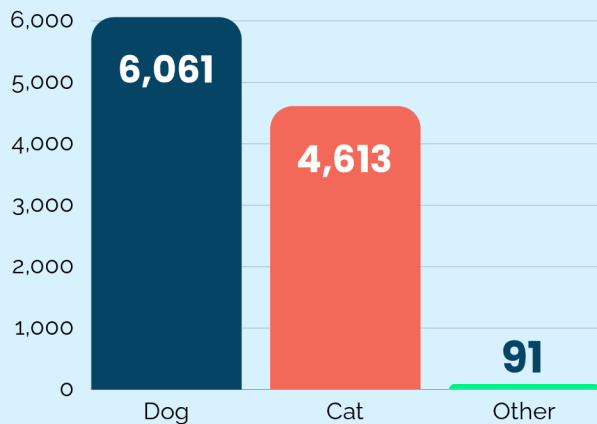
2025 SHELTER ADMISSIONS

As Hamilton County's only open, stray-intake animal shelter and sole provider of animal services, Cincinnati Animal CARE serves as the safety net for animals with nowhere else to go. Every day, our team responds to calls from residents, law enforcement agencies, and animal services officers across all 412 square miles of Hamilton County, ensuring lost, abandoned, injured, neglected, and vulnerable animals have a safe place to land.

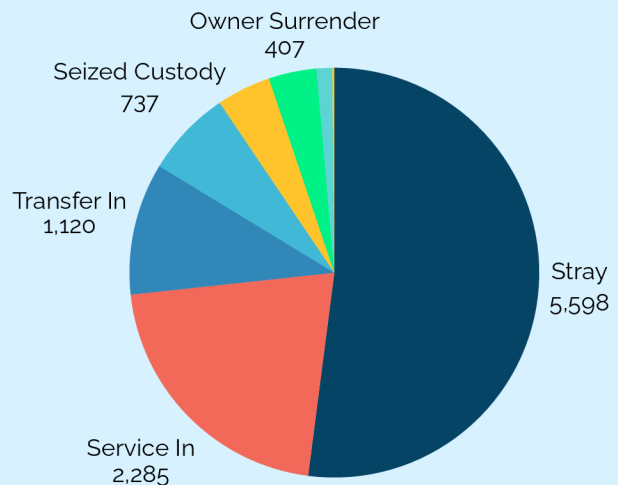
In 2025, more than 8,500 animals entered our care. The majority arrived as strays, brought to us by Animal CARE Certified Human Agents and Deputy Dog Wardens, law enforcement partners, or community members who found an animal in need. While many people's first instinct is to bring a found pet directly to the shelter, reunification efforts in the community often provide the fastest path home. Through programs, resources, and education that help neighbors reconnect lost pets with their families before they enter the shelter system, we continue working to reduce unnecessary intake while ensuring every animal that needs us receives compassionate care.

No matter how an animal arrives, our commitment remains the same: providing safety, medical care, enrichment, and a pathway forward until they can be reunited, transferred to a rescue partner, or adopted into a loving home.

2025 TOTAL INTAKE DATA BY SPECIES



2025 TOTAL INTAKE DATA BY NUMBER



TOTAL INTAKE(S): 8528

AVG LOS: 22.57 DAYS

LIFESAVING IMPACT

At Cincinnati Animal CARE, we believe finding the right home should be simple, welcoming, and accessible. Our low-barrier adoption process removes unnecessary obstacles that can prevent loving families from adopting. We offer same-day adoptions with no appointments, no pre-applications, and no lengthy approval process. Instead, our team focuses on meaningful conversations, matchmaking, and providing adopters with the information they need to make the best decision for their household.

By treating every adopter as a valued partner and every animal as an individual, we help more pets move quickly from shelter kennels into loving homes. For those who need a little extra time to decide, our Foster-to-Adopt program allows families to take a dog home for up to seven days before making a permanent commitment. This people-centered, pet-centered approach helps remove barriers, increase lifesaving outcomes, and create lasting matches between animals and the families who love them.

In 2025, Cincinnati Animal CARE completed 5,939 adoptions.



3,123 dogs



2,788 cats



16 rabbits



4 barn animals



3 birds



1 reptile



4 other species

Total adoptions increased by more than 1000 YOY from 2024

Additional outcomes in 2025:

- 1,054 dogs returned to their owners
- 440 transfers to partner organizations
- 2,359 vaccines and community spay/neuter services provided

Every animal that comes through our doors is treated as an individual, with a path forward, unique to their needs.



MEDICAL CARE & CLINIC IMPACT

Every animal that enters Cincinnati Animal CARE's doors begins their journey with our **medical team**. Staffed by approximately 30 team members, including veterinary technicians, assistants, and support personnel, the Medical Department serves as the foundation of our lifesaving work. Each animal receives a physical examination, vaccinations, and vital medical care tailored to their individual needs, ensuring they have the best possible chance at a healthy future.

In 2025, Cincinnati Animal CARE reached a major milestone by significantly expanding in-house veterinary services. Historically, all spay/neuter surgeries were performed through external veterinary partners. With the growth of our in-house medical program, thousands of animals were able to receive surgery directly at the shelter, reducing wait times, improving medical responsiveness, shortening length of stay, and **helping animals move more efficiently from intake to adoption**.

This investment in veterinary care strengthened our ability to provide timely treatment, respond to medical emergencies, and deliver comprehensive care for every animal entrusted to us. The result was a **record-breaking year for surgical capacity** and an even stronger foundation for lifesaving.



In-House Spay/Neuter

- 2,367 dogs
- 1,783 cats

Total: 4,150

In-House Specialty Surgeries

- 87 dogs
- 36 cats

Total: 123

Total In-House Surgeries: 4,273

Offsite Spay/Neuter (OAR, UCAN, GDHS)

- 72 dogs
- 299 cats

Total: 371

Total Surgeries in 2025

(In-House + Offsite): 4,644

For comparison, total surgeries in 2024 were 3,066.

This represents a 51% increase in surgical capacity year-over-year.

Expanding in-house services reduced length of stay, improved medical responsiveness, and allowed for more efficient movement from intake to adoption.



VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Cincinnati Animal CARE. From walking dogs and socializing cats to assisting with events, supporting daily operations, and serving as ambassadors in the community, volunteers play a critical role in every aspect of our lifesaving mission.

In 2025, our volunteer program experienced tremendous growth, fueled by the implementation of online orientation, volunteer-led trainings, and expanded opportunities for engagement. These changes increased accessibility, streamlined onboarding, and empowered more community members than ever before to get involved. The result was a record year of volunteer participation, with thousands of hours dedicated to enriching the lives of shelter animals, supporting shelter operations, and helping pets find their way home.

Whether throwing in a load of laundry, taking a dog for a walk, assisting at an event, or lending a helping hand behind the scenes, our volunteers continue to demonstrate the power of community-driven lifesaving. Their dedication allows us to extend our reach, enhance animal welfare, and provide individualized care for thousands of animals each year.

Volunteer engagement continued to grow significantly in 2025:

- 1,266 active volunteers throughout 2025
- 671 NEW volunteers onboarded
- 61,276 total volunteer hours logged
 - 32,515 foster hours
 - 28,761 onsite volunteer hours
 - Walk team and independent walking activities logged 14,261 hours, equating to approximately 42,783 miles walked.

Volunteer onboarding growth:

- 94 volunteers onboarded in 2023
- 277 onboarded in 2024
- 671 onboarded in 2025

FUNDRAISING IMPACT

Every life saved at Cincinnati Animal CARE is made possible through the generosity of our community. While our contract with Hamilton County supports animal services operations, donations provide the critical resources that allow us to go beyond basic sheltering and invest in innovative programs, lifesaving medical care, behavior support, enrichment, and community-centered initiatives that improve outcomes for animals and the people who love them.

In 2025, community support reached new heights. Through signature events, digital campaigns, annual appeals, corporate partnerships, and grassroots fundraising efforts, donors demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the animals in our care. This broad-based support not only fueled daily operations but also enabled us to expand services, respond to emerging needs, and continue advancing progressive sheltering practices.

Every donation, whether given at an event, through a social media campaign, during an annual appeal, or in honor of a beloved pet, helped create second chances for thousands of animals. The continued growth of our fundraising efforts reflects a community that believes in our mission and is invested in building a safer, more compassionate Hamilton County for animals and people alike.

In 2025, Cincinnati Animal CARE raised \$1,020,953.56 in total fundraising revenue

This includes:

- \$191,000 raised at our inaugural signature event, Unleashed
- \$70,000 raised through social media campaigns
- \$30,000 raised on Giving Tuesday
- Mid-year and year-end appeal campaigns
- Mission-driven fundraising initiatives organized and promoted internally

These funds directly supported medical care, surgical services, behavior support, enrichment, staffing, and community programs. The success of diversified fundraising channels reflects growing community investment in our mission.





FOSTERING SAVES LIVES

Foster care remains one of the most impactful and essential components of Cincinnati Animal CARE's lifesaving model. By opening their homes to animals in need, foster volunteers provide individualized care, reduce shelter stress, create space for incoming animals, and help pets thrive in a home environment while they await adoption, transfer, or reunification.

In 2025, our foster program continued to grow in both scale and impact. Thousands of animals spent time in foster homes, benefiting from everything from short shelter breaks and day trips to extended placements for puppies, kittens, medical cases, behavioral support, and animals awaiting adoption. Each foster placement not only improved quality of life for the individual animal, but also created critical capacity within the shelter, allowing us to serve more animals across Hamilton County.

The success of our foster program is a direct reflection of a community willing to step up when animals need them most. Whether providing a single afternoon away from the shelter or months of dedicated care, foster volunteers played a vital role in helping animals heal, grow, and prepare for their next chapter. As the program continues to expand, foster care remains one of the most effective tools for improving outcomes, increasing capacity, and advancing our commitment to lifesaving.

Fostering remains one of the most powerful tools in our lifesaving model.

In 2025:

- 10,435 total foster placements
- 32,515 foster-related hours logged in the Volunteer Management System
 - Nearly 3,000 hours logged for day trips
 - Nearly 30,000 hours logged for short- and long-term fostering

Average length of stay in a foster home: 11.15 days

Application data:

- 1,486 foster applications submitted

Of total placements:

- 3,657 placements involved first-time fosters
- 6,778 placements involved repeat foster participation

The foster program continues to scale, providing critical capacity relief for the shelter and improving outcomes through home-based care.



PETSMART PARTNERSHIP IMPACT

Cincinnati Animal CARE's partnership with PetSmart helps bring adoptable pets directly into communities across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, creating more opportunities for homeless animals to find loving homes.

In 2025, Cincinnati Animal CARE hosted adoption events at 11 PetSmart partner stores throughout the region. These events, supported by staff, volunteers, foster families, and PetSmart associates, helped connect hundreds of shelter pets with adopters outside of the shelter setting and introduced our animals to new audiences who may not have otherwise visited the shelter.

2025 PetSmart Partnership Impact:

- 11 PetSmart partner stores
- 206 adoption events hosted
 - 122 dog adoption events
 - 84 cat adoption events
- 517 total adoptions through PetSmart events
 - 108 dogs adopted
 - 409 cats adopted
- Earned PetSmart Silver Adoption Partner status

The success of this partnership earned Cincinnati Animal CARE recognition as a PetSmart Silver Adoption Partner, reflecting our shared commitment to increasing lifesaving outcomes for shelter pets.

Every adoption creates space for another animal in need while giving a deserving pet a second chance. We are grateful to PetSmart, our volunteers, foster families, and adopters for helping make these lifesaving connections possible.



Organizational Achievements

2025 was a year of remarkable growth, innovation, and impact for Cincinnati Animal CARE. As animal shelters across the country continued to face unprecedented challenges, our organization expanded services, increased capacity, strengthened community engagement, and advanced our commitment to lifesaving. From significant investments in veterinary care and behavior programs to record-breaking fundraising and volunteer participation, each achievement reflected a shared dedication to improving outcomes for animals and the people who love them.

These accomplishments are the result of a collective effort by staff, volunteers, fosters, donors, partners, and supporters who believe that every animal deserves a chance. Together, we continued to build a model of progressive sheltering that prioritizes compassion, innovation, and community collaboration while maintaining our role as Hamilton County's safety net for animals in need.

The milestones highlighted below represent more than organizational successes. They represent thousands of lives saved, families reunited, barriers removed, and opportunities created for animals to find safety, healing, and loving homes.

- Named Cincinnati's Best Animal Shelter/Adoption Center, 2025, 4th year running (Citybeat Magazine)
- Named Best Local Cause, 2025 (Citybeat Magazine)
- Named Best Non-profit, 2025 (Citybeat Magazine)
- Named Best Place to Volunteer (Citybeat Magazine)
- No-Kill status maintained for the 5th consecutive year
- Expanded in-house spay/neuter capacity by more than 50%
- Hosted the inaugural Unleashed fundraising event raising \$192,000
- Surpassed \$1 million in annual fundraising
- Welcomed nationally recognized Dogs Playing for Life for a third time
- All Behavior & Training team members completed offsite DPFL Academy training
- Surpassed 25,000 adoptions since assuming shelter operations
- Expanded volunteer onboarding to more than 660 new volunteers
- Continued recognition as a Best Friends Network No-Kill Partner
- Expanded foster engagement to more than 10,000 foster placements

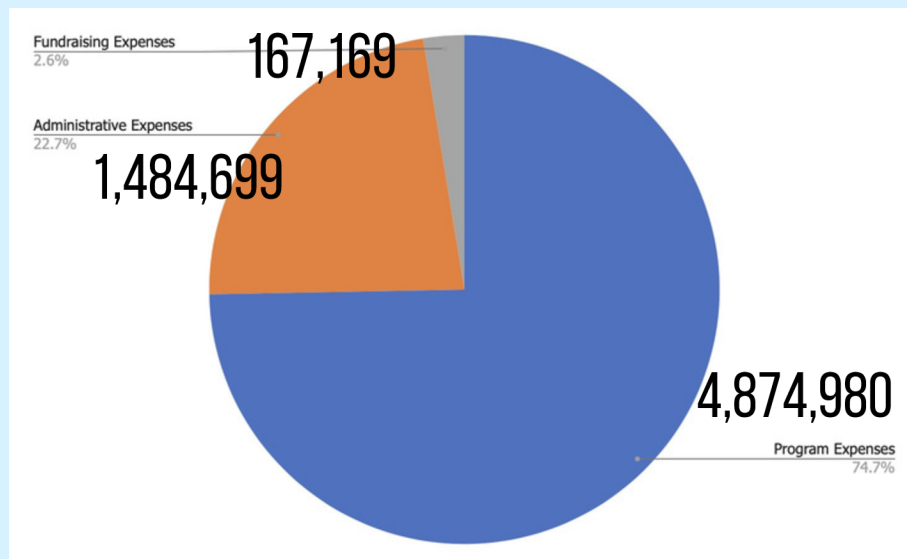


FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

- \$7.7M in resources supporting lifesaving operations
- 74.7% directed to mission-related animal care programs
- 5th consecutive year of no-kill operations
- \$2.54M in net assets strengthening long-term sustainability

2025 Financial Highlights	Amount
Total Income	\$7.67M
Total Expenses	\$6.53M
Ending Net Assets	\$2.54M

75¢ of Every Dollar Supported Animal Care Programs in 2025



TOGETHER, WE SAVE LIVES

Behind every number in this report is an animal, a person, and a story of hope.

The accomplishments highlighted throughout this report were made possible by the generosity of donors, volunteers, fosters, adopters, community partners, and advocates who believe every animal deserves a chance.

Thank you for believing in our mission, supporting our work, and standing with us as we continue to **redefine what lifesaving looks like.**

Together, we are creating a future where every animal is valued, protected, and has a safe place to call home.

— Cincinnati Animal CARE

ADOPT FOSTER VOLUNTEER DONATE

To learn more about Cincinnati Animal CARE, get involved, volunteer, foster, adopt, or support our mission, visit: www.cincycare.org



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