

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

LEON COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



2017 HIGHLIGHTS

13,402



**Pounds of Food
Distributed through Pet Pantry**



**7,991
Volunteer
Hours**

5920

Pets Adopted



633

Pets Fostered



ABOUT LEON COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

The **Leon County Humane Society (LCHS)** is the oldest and largest no-kill animal rescue organization in the greater Tallahassee area with a 57-year history of improving the lives of pets and people. We are a local, private nonprofit organization and are not affiliated with the city-funded animal shelter or any national Humane Society or SPCA. We are completely reliant on the generosity and support of individuals and businesses in our community and grants from foundations.

*Our mission is Rescue, Rehabilitate, and Educate;
Fostering a Kinder Community for People and Their Pets.*

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members of LCHS,

What a fulfilling year! 2017 was a year of trial and learning. Programs grew and adjustments were made to best serve the animals in greatest need. 2017 was also a year of new relationships. By joining forces with other groups, both on a local and national level, LCHS focused on what we do best, transforming lives.

The first quarter of the year, my mind was consumed by a case of abuse and neglect involving two properties, over 70 animals, and few resources. While Tallahassee is far from perfect, we forget how fortunate our community is to have a city funded animal shelter, several rescue groups, animal control, and low cost resources for people and their pets. For 2 months, LCHS worked diligently to recruit the assistance of law enforcement and the ASPCA in order to bring an end to the suffering occurring on these north Florida properties at the hands of pet owners with a history of neglect.

When looking back, the images that come to mind are those of frail dogs on short chains and a variety of animals living in tiny cages surrounded by filth. The quiet ride back to LCHS was spent fighting off tears in a car loaded with cats and dogs in shared space who would never again know that misery. For weeks, our hearts and minds were left on those properties with the many faces that were not yet safe. An unexpected late night text from a law enforcement officer stating that all animals had been removed from the properties, 4 arrests had been made, and one child was removed from the deplorable conditions brought with it joy and relief.

In June, LCHS and other Emergency Placement Partners were contacted by HSUS regarding the 9th South Korean dog meat farm shut down by Humane Society International. After seeing video and images from this farm, we knew LCHS had to help, but we

were aware that these dogs would bring with them a new set of challenges. The decision to accept even a small number of dogs from overseas would surely invite controversy. After lots of research, communication with other rescues that had accepted dogs from prior farm closures, dialogue with our participating veterinarians, and discussion as a team, we decided to start small by accepting 4 large breed dogs from this farm.



Fast forward to arrival day in the U.S. Handwritten notes had been left by rescuers on kennels holding the terrified dogs. The dogs peered through metal doors surrounded by messages of hope including “With Love From S. Korea” and “U.S.A. or Bust”. While they arrived just frightened shells of dogs, they adapted and gained confidence with the people of LCHS learning alongside them. Emily, Lex, Scrappy, and Daphne are now happy, healthy and loved advocates for change. They opened the door for animals in similar situations and they have brought awareness to many.

It’s important that as an organization we remain informed, practice good communication with others, and remember that we are all on the same team. LCHS would not be the trusted lifesaving organization that it is without the collaboration of our dedicated members and donors, volunteers, foster parents, staff, and Board of Directors. I am incredibly grateful to you all for the part you play and the support you provide to the Leon County Humane Society!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Glunt". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lisa Glunt

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Pet Pantry Food Bank

2017 brought growth and expansion to the LCHS Pet Food Pantry. The goal of the pantry is to provide support to community members at risk of losing their pet(s) due to financial hardship. In January 2017, LCHS was contacted by Elder Care Services Inc., the leader in serving seniors in the Big Bend area. The organization had recently discovered that Meals on Wheels recipients with pets had no consistent pet food source, forcing many to share their daily hot meal with their pets. Since partnering with Elder Care Services Inc., LCHS has made assisting senior pet owners in need a priority for the pantry.

In 2017, the LCHS Pet Food Pantry provided 13,402 lbs, of pet food to local animals in need. Pet bedding, toys, and 1,956 lbs. of cat litter were also donated. In order to accommodate the greater number of pets being served through the pantry, LCHS is in the process of creating policies and guidelines for recipients to ensure that all animals being served are spayed or neutered. When necessary, a low cost voucher is provided to recipients with the expectation that the animals be spayed or neutered within 60 days.



Special Needs & Senior Foster Pets

LCHS continues to rise to the challenge of rescuing and rehoming animals faced with special hurdles (both medical and behavioral), as well as an increased number of senior pets. In early 2017, with a grant from the Grey Muzzle Organization, the LCHS Dog Foster program prepared to accept an additional 20 senior dogs between 07/01/17 and 06/30/18. At the same time, the LCHS Cat Foster program experienced an increased intake of cats and kittens transferred from shelters in North Florida and South Georgia due to illness and the need for immediate medical intervention. The dedication shared by LCHS staff, participating veterinary clinics, foster parents, and volunteers provides an environment and the resources necessary to rehabilitate animals who are sick, injured, scared, or depressed and advocate for them with a goal of placing them all in loving adoptive homes.



REDUCING PET HOMELESSNESS

2017 Positive Placements

Foster & Adoption Program

The LCHS Dog and Cat Foster and Adoption Programs are the heart of our mission, touching the lives of both animals in need and families in North Florida. At any given time, approximately 150 dogs and cats reside in temporary foster homes where they are provided with shelter, veterinary care, access to clean food and water, and necessary socialization from dedicated volunteer foster parents.



Intake: 258
Adopted: 255



Intake: 374
Adopted: 337

592 total
adoptions

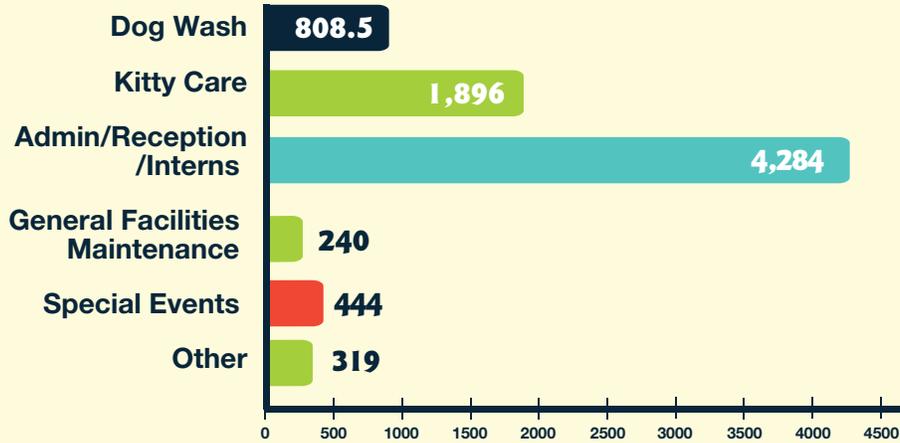
Animal Medical Funding

The medical condition of individual animals entering our care differs and at times the extent of care needed is not known until the animal has been thoroughly examined by a veterinarian. The more difficult cases seem to be what we do best. While they take longer to obtain, almost unrecognizable transformations are commonplace for LCHS foster pets. All dogs entering our care receive at minimum, spay/neuter, vaccinations, testing for heartworms and intestinal parasites, deworming, flea and heartworm preventative, and registered microchipping. All cats entering our care receive spay/neuter, testing for FIV/FELV as well as testing for intestinal parasites, vaccinations, deworming, flea and heartworm preventative, and registered microchipping. Other common medical costs cover dental cleanings and tooth extractions for senior pets, surgeries to repair broken bones and remove cancerous growths, and extensive treatments for bacterial and fungal infections. Many animals including kittens and puppies require expensive specialty or prescription food. Most of the time, our adoption fees do not cover the costs required to rehabilitate these animals.



VOLUNTEERS

2017 Volunteer Hour Breakdown



7,991
Total Hours

Volunteers are essential to the work of LCHS. From our dedicated foster parents and kitty care volunteers, to our hard working maintenance volunteers who spot issues and have the problem solved before staff knew it existed, our volunteers are golden! LCHS volunteers differ greatly in age, experience level, skill set, etc., with the common factor being that all LCHS volunteers seek to make a difference in the lives of animals. LCHS is made up of a team of people coming together for a common good and volunteers are vital to our mission!

In 2017, we found ourselves overflowing with new volunteer inquiries. It didn't take us long to realize that our existing volunteer tracking system was not robust enough to keep up with our growing volunteer pool. We needed a better way to

schedule and track volunteer time, but most importantly we wanted to engage our volunteers with new opportunities, allowing more people to help in more ways. After extensive research and volunteer management training, we came to the conclusion; the best outcome would be to create a platform of our own. With that in the works, we shifted our focus to developing a volunteer program that offered a variety of participation levels and new and exciting volunteer roles. We're happy to report that the first wave of those changes is already in effect.



Thank you to all our volunteers, both veterans and newbies; you motivate us to make LCHS the best it can be for everyone, the animals we care for and the community we serve. Together the possibilities are limitless!

HUMANE EDUCATION PROGRAM

LCHS staff are proud to share the organizations love of animals with local children. Our hope is through an early introduction to animals and the challenges facing animals in our area, these children will become the next voice for animals in North Florida. An emphasis is placed on the importance of spay/ neuter, microchipping, basic pet care, and adoption. When appropriate, additional animal welfare topics are discussed. In May 2017, LCHS completed our year long partnership with the Hartsfield Elementary School's 21st Century Afterschool program. Through hands on learning with LCHS, approximately 50 2nd through 5th graders who previously had little to no positive experience with animals, gained a love and respect for creatures that they share the earth with.



Pawsitive Partnerships

For LCHS, 2017 became a year of networking for the greater good of animals. LCHS was accepted as an Emergency Placement Partner with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Through this partnership, LCHS transferred 16 dogs from 3 different abuse cases outside of Florida. Also through this partnership, LCHS transferred 19 cats from the Broward County Humane Society following a devastating hurricane season which overloaded the South Florida shelter.

LCHS continues to work with local partners in animal welfare as well. In March 2017, Aloft Hotel Tallahassee opened its doors as an LCHS foster home, serving one LCHS pup at a time. In 2017, Aloft and LCHS combined efforts to find loving adoptive homes for 14 previously homeless dogs. Several of these adopted dogs were seniors who benefitted from the visibility provided by this partnership. Through partnerships such as these, LCHS is working to impact lives of individual animals in need while promoting rescue and adoption on a greater scale.

FUNDRAISING

Throughout the year, LCHS offers several fundraising opportunities inviting participants to support our life-saving programs. Proceeds help to provide for the animals in our care as well as programs offered to keep beloved companion animals with their owners.

Bags 4 Wags



Dog Wash



Paw Prints Calendar

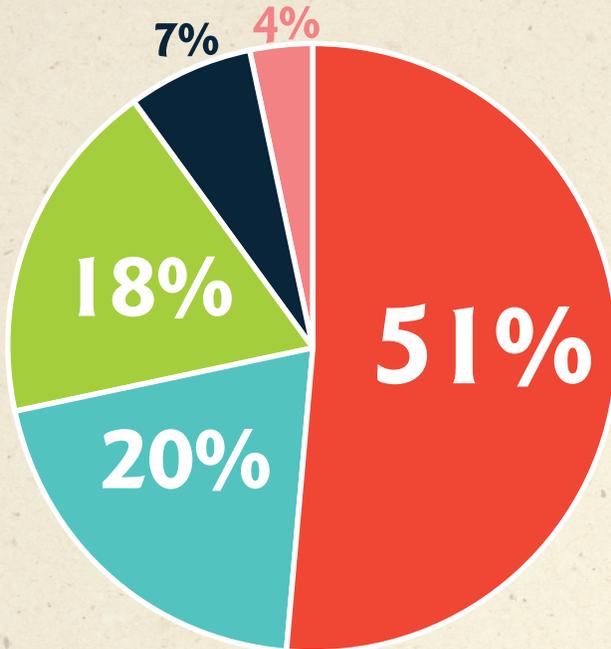


Walk & Wag



2017 FINANCIAL STATS

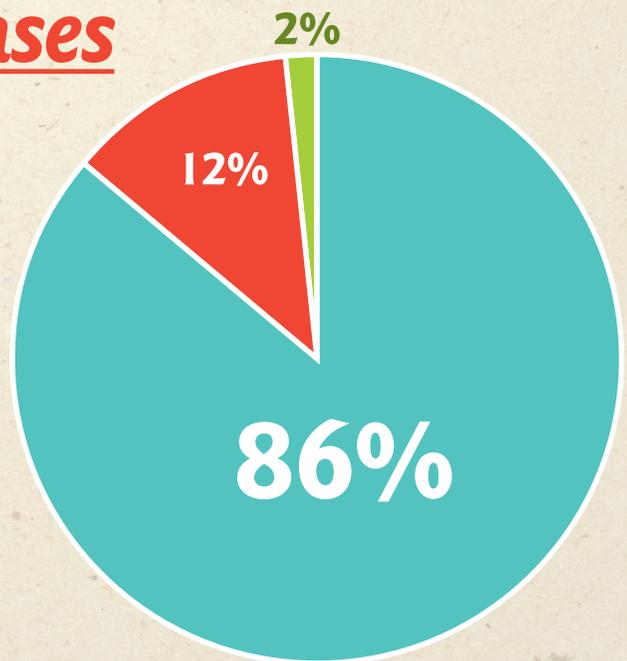
Sources of Support



- Individual Donors (\$222,272)
- Fundraisers (\$87,627)
- Adoptions (\$79,080)
- Grants/Programs (\$28,524)
- Bequests (\$14,034)

Expenses

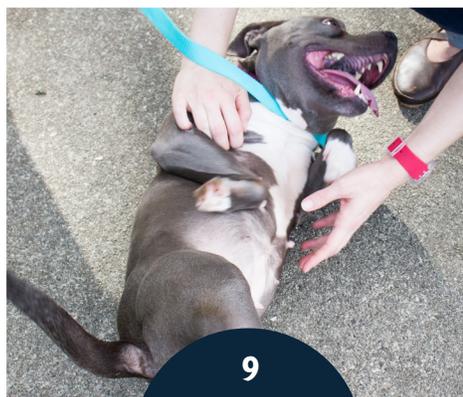
- Program (\$366,627)
- General & Administration (\$52,163)
- Fundraising (\$6,857)



Our Success Depends On YOU!

The accomplishments of LCHS in 2017 would not be possible without your support! New challenges arise every year, but with your help we continue to assist homeless animals in need while providing assistance to pet owners at risk of losing their beloved companions. We work to educate future advocates in a field where so much work has yet to be done.

Our success depends on you. Together we will create a brighter future for the hundreds of homeless pets that make their way through our doors and into our hearts every year. Thanks to your trust and support we will continue to make a difference in years to come!



2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindi Owen Briley President

Diana Orrick Vice President

Fotena Zirps, Ph.D Secretary

Joe Patton Treasurer

Rick Figlio

Sandi Poreda

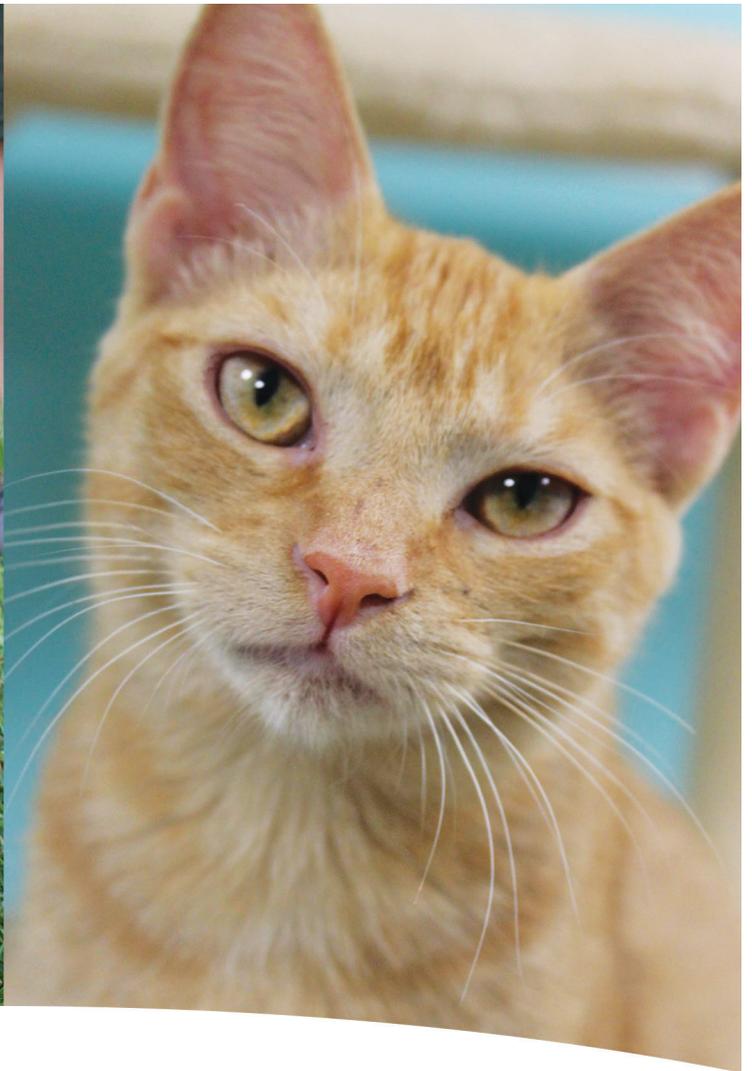
Darcie Morningstar

Debbie Hanerty

Russ Franklin

Dr. Kevin Brumfield Honorary

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***Rescue, Rehabilitate, and Educate;
Fostering a Kinder Community
for People and Their Pets.***

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