

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



SAVING LIVES  
SINCE 1935



*"I can't promise I will be with you  
until the end of your life, but  
I can promise I will love you  
until the end of mine."*



## MISSION

We strive to improve the lives of companion animals by rehoming abused, abandoned, and neglected pets while fighting for their well-being through vigorous legislative efforts, humane education, and by offering affordable veterinary care for all.

## VISION

We envision a world in which every animal has a safe and loving home, access to quality veterinary care, and where the unfailing love and devotion of a companion animal is valued by all.

# FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

## Reflecting On The Past Year

Dear Friends;

We are pleased to again report that we were able to save over 95% of the animals that came to us. Our partnership with the City of Aiken accounts for 50-55% of the animal intake into the SPCA Albrecht Center. Due to this partnership, the citizens of Aiken can rest assured that no animal is euthanized for space and that the City's live release rate is 97%.

Although many people believe that private monetary donations support our shelter operations, that is generally not true. In a small city such as ours, where the local community supports many worthy non-profits, monetary donations are spread thin among the charitable organizations. Contributions fall far short of making up the losses from medically treating, caring for, and re-homing the unwanted, homeless animals that enter our doors; therefore, we must be resourceful in creating recurring revenues.

Knowing this, we work hard to profitably manage the SPCA Thrift Store and Veterinary Care Center to funnel net income into the Adoption sector. With the onset of the COVID pandemic in March of 2020 the Store was forced by state government to close its doors for five weeks. Consequently, it suffered a significant loss. As we move into 2021, we are seeing recovery, but it is still far from where we were prior to the pandemic.

Additionally, with the advent of COVID, many veterinary and spay/neuter clinics closed their doors. In contrast, we chose to continue performing our mission and instead reinvented our business model to safely accommodate clients by asking them to remain outside while waiting to be serviced. We erected a tent, established outdoor waiting areas, a pager system, and trained our staff to effectively communicate with clients. It has worked so well that our walk-in clinic is more popular than ever.

The Veterinary Student Externship Program for 4th year students to schedule their clinicals with us is even more robust. Students from across the USA, England, Australia, and Scotland have all joined us for two to three week periods of time in which they improve their surgical skills, become exposed to shelter medicine, and shadow our doctors in client consultations. A wealth of experience is gained in their time with us. COVID forced many of these students to turn to us when their scheduled externships elsewhere were cancelled.



A handwritten signature of Barbara Nelson in black ink.

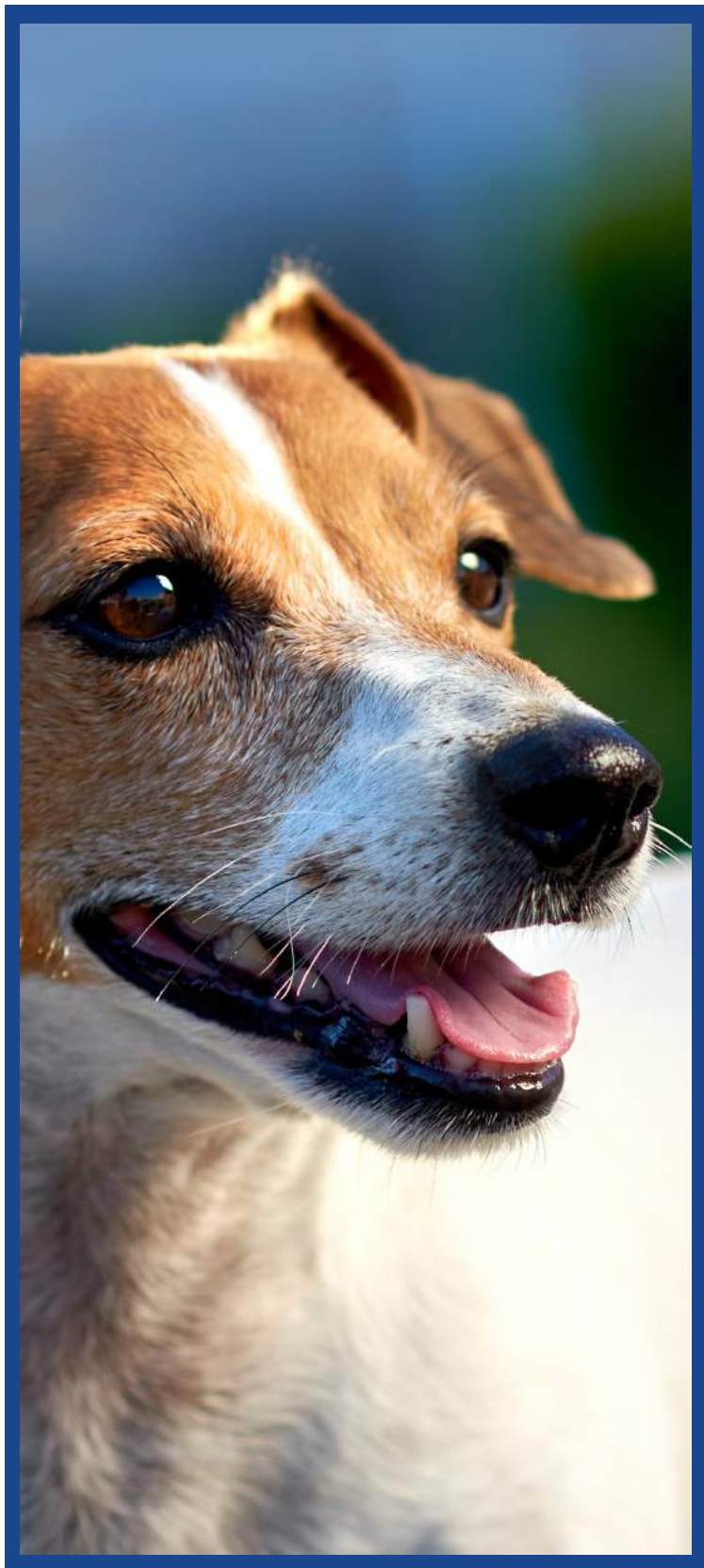
**Barbara Nelson**  
President/CEO

We continue to press all levels of government that have not already done so, to pass ordinances that encourage spaying and neutering by charging a fertile dog fee for the risk of that animal contributing to the unwanted, homeless population. Those communities that have done so, such as the City of Aiken, have experienced great success. We are particularly concerned about the overpopulation of Pit Bull/mixes that enter the shelters of South Carolina, including our own facility. Over 70% of the dogs admitted by the City were Pitty's. They are the most difficult to adopt and the most abused and neglected. We, as well as other prominent shelters in SC are currently working with the South Carolina legislature to address this issue.

I would like to thank each and every one of you, whether you are a volunteer, financial contributor, member of the Board of Directors, or simply a caring citizen, for your support of the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare. Together we are most definitely making this a better world for all.



# 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Barbara Nelson**, President and CEO

**Mary Guynn**, Chairman

**Russ Richardson**, Vice Chairman

**Robert Fine**, Treasurer

**Jack Roth**, Secretary

Marilyn Brady

Owen Bramlett

Sharon Brown

Ted Cummings

Sharer Dale

Charles Doremus

Amy Hebert Doremus

Pam Gleason

Nancy Goldmark

Lisa H. Handy, DVM

Jacquelyn Kane

Lorian Perlata-Ramos

Jennifer Richardson

Rebecca von Schweinitz

Al Sorensen

Michael Sullivan

Jill Thomas

Steve Young

# OUR LEADERSHIP

## 2020 Management Staff



**Barbara Nelson**  
*President/CEO*



**Sybil Altman**  
*Shelter Manager*



**Sarah Neikam**  
*Operations Manager*



**Claire Roberson**  
*Communications Director*



**Emilee Heise**  
*Director of Events*



**Miranda Ewing**  
*Director of Volunteers*



**Herb Curry**  
*Facilities Manager*



**Julie Petersen**  
*Veterinary Practice Manager*



**Gordon McLeod**  
*Thrift Store Manager*



# COVID-19'S IMPACT

## An Unprecedented Year In Animal Welfare



SPCA essential staffers & volunteers continue to work through the pandemic with safety precautions in place



With stay at home orders in place, adoptions steadily continue as adopters have more time to dedicate to their new companion

In March 2020, the threat of the global pandemic began to loom closer and closer to the areas we serve at the SPCA Albrecht Center. There was no telling what the impact would be on our operations, but we knew our vital staff, volunteers and supporters needed protection from COVID-19 to ensure the animals in our care would continue to receive lifesaving care and a safe haven from the unkind world they were seeking shelter from.

SPCA senior staffers met to discuss safety measures for the upcoming months (which quickly turned into the upcoming year). Mask requirements, temperature readings and increased sanitization efforts, in addition to the already-daily deep cleanings of the animals' rooms, were put into place.

A call to action went out to our supporters for donations to assist with the inevitable decrease in funds from the pandemic, and for fosters and adopters in anticipation of possible space issues.

Owner surrenders capable of keeping their pets for a while longer were asked to be put on a waiting list or to pursue alternative methods of rehoming. We increased our TNR (trap-neuter-return) efforts and offered fee-waived adoptions for several months - all to help with keeping the number of animals in our care at a manageable level.

Events that could not adapt to social distancing and masks requirements were cancelled for the year, traffic into the shelter was restricted to staff, and a limited number of volunteers and serious adopters were allowed in the building.

Just as the Shelter remained open as an essential business, so did the Veterinary Care Center. A tent was purchased for an outdoor waiting area, a pager system was implemented and staff was educated on effective communication with clients to ensure a smooth transition to the new normal.

# COVID-19'S IMPACT

## An Unprecedented Year In Animal Welfare

The SPCA's Thrift Store was not as lucky, as retail stores were classified as nonessential. During the course of the pandemic, the Store's closure resulted in a \$70,000 net loss for the animals, in addition to nearly \$10,000 in lost special event revenues, and a slight decrease in donations (understandably due to the devastating job losses during the pandemic).

Despite the uncertainty and losses this time brought, kindness and compassion for the area's homeless & neglected animals persevered with the community's support. Over 95% of the animals we took in found their loving, forever homes thanks to citizens staying home more and having time to adjust with their new companion.

Volunteers selflessly showed up and committed nearly 10,000 of lifesaving service to the shelter animals, and over 275 animals were fostered (compared to only 53 in 2019).

The Veterinary Care Center's traffic skyrocketed (see page 9) - again, thanks to pet owners having more time dedicated to their companions - and, upon reopening, avid Thrift Store shoppers excitedly returned to shop "Where Shopping Saves Lives."

Though we are not yet back to pre-pandemic operations, there is light at the end of the tunnel as we enter into the New Year thanks to the compassionate, never-failing support of our staff, adopters, volunteers, Board members, donors, and all of those that pillar our organization in a myriad of ways.

**Thank you to all that continued to contribute during such an uncertain time. Your support never ceases to amaze us, and makes the world of difference to the most vulnerable souls in our care at the SPCA Albrecht Center. Thank you!**



The Veterinary Care Center remains open to continue offering lifesaving care with safety precautions & outdoor services in place for staff & clients



The SPCA Thrift Store reopens after five weeks of closure due to the pandemic. During the course of COVID-19 restrictions, the Store saw a \$70,000 net loss.

# 2020 LIFESAVING STATISTICS

## 2020 STATS

Dogs Cared For 490  
Cats Cared For 671  
Other\* Cared For 21

**TOTAL CARED FOR 1,182**

Dogs Adopted 429  
Cats Adopted 519  
Other\* Adopted 15

**TOTAL ADOPTED\*\* 963**

## 2019 COMPARISON

Dogs Cared For 539  
Cats Cared For 707  
Other\* Cared For 28

**TOTAL CARED FOR 1,274**

Dogs Adopted 478  
Cats Adopted 606  
Other\* Adopted 27

**TOTAL ADOPTED\*\* 1,111**

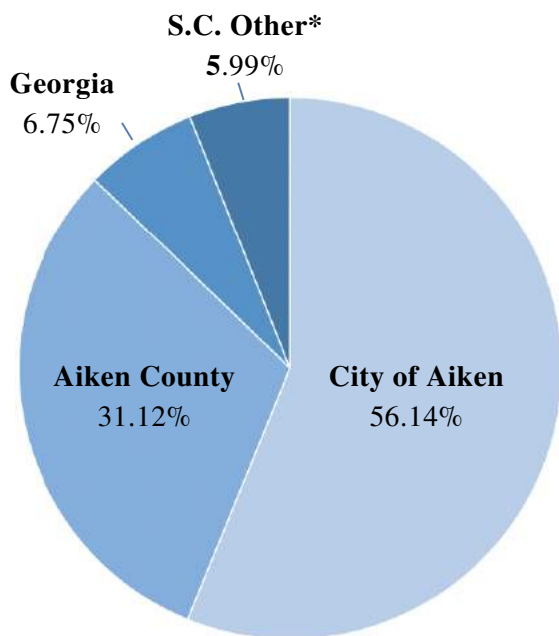
[963 Adopted + 162 Carried Into 2021] / 1,182 (Total Cared For) = **95.18% Save Rate**

*\*Other animals include guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, etc.*

*\*\*'Adopted' stats do not include animals that transferred over into the new year.*

**Please see the formula above to understand how we calculate Save Rate.**

## Origins of Animals Taken In

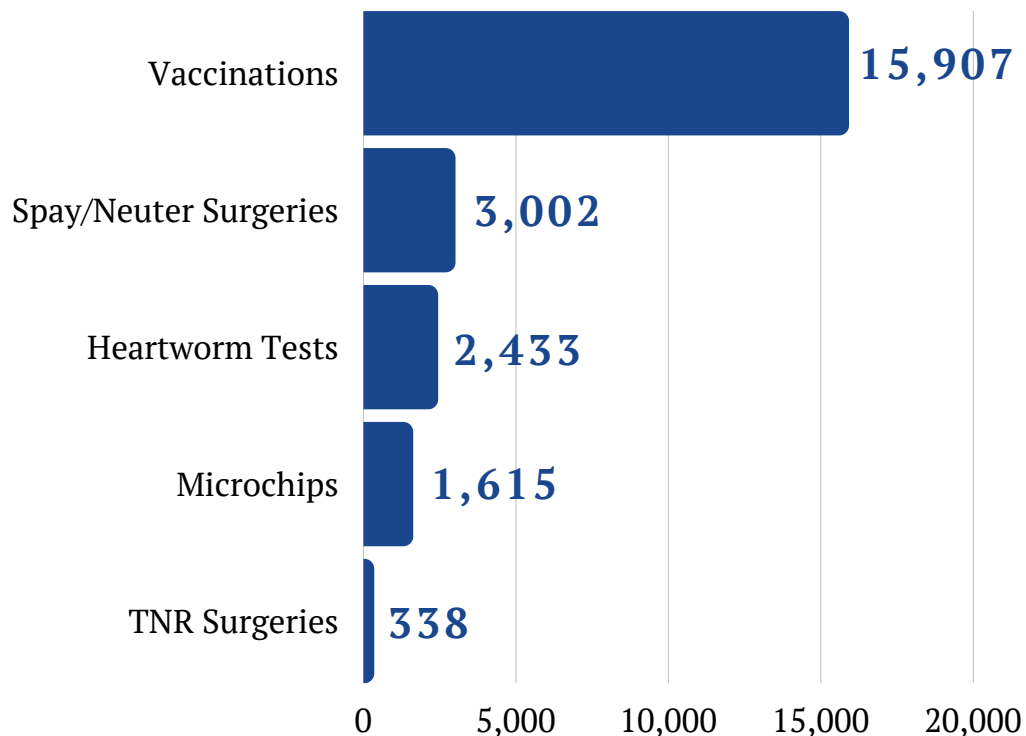
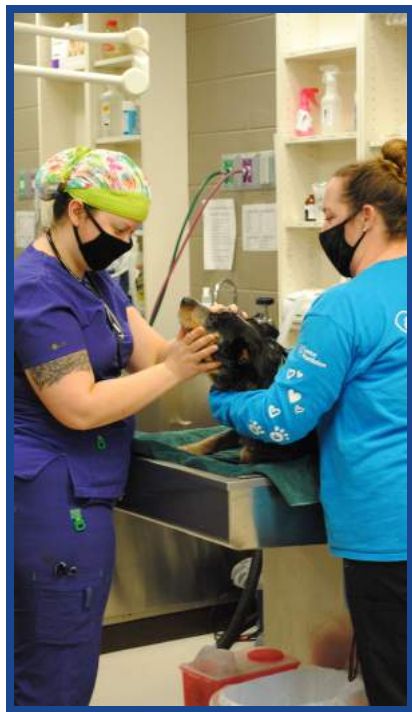


\*Other areas include Saluda, N. Augusta, Charleston, & Edgefield



# SAVING LIVES THROUGH VET CARE

## 2020 Lifesaving Stats



\*Stats include shelter animals & personal pets treated by the Veterinary Care Center.

# VOLUNTEERING FOR THE ANIMALS

## 2020 Lifesaving Stats



# SPCA VET CARE GIVES SECOND CHANCES

## Phoenix's Story



### PHOENIX BEFORE

The SPCA Veterinary Care Center examines Phoenix's burns upon arrival



### PHOENIX AFTER

Phoenix fully healed after 4.5 weeks of recovery & adopted by SPCA Veterinary Technician

On June 20th, 2020, a little kitten was found and brought into the SPCA Albrecht Center with 2nd and 3rd degree burns on his paws, ears, face and tail. We were unsure whether the poor kitten was intentionally harmed or survived a structure fire, but nevertheless, the Veterinary Care Center quickly went to work to save his life.

The kitten (named Phoenix after the mythological bird that rises from ashes) was sedated and his wounds, which were found to be more severe than expected, were carefully cleaned and tended to. He was prescribed a remedy of strong antibiotics, eye medications, and pain and mouth ulcer medications.

The Vet Care staff quickly fell in love with this little fighter, and one of our very own Veterinary Technicians took Phoenix home to continue his care, which required sedation two times a day to change his bandages.

After two weeks of healing, Phoenix underwent surgery where tilapia fish skin was used to help speed up healing (fish skin grafting is also used on humans, as the skin yields natural anti-inflammatory properties that helps the healing process). The fish skin grafting proved effective, and just 4.5 weeks later, Phoenix was walking normally and wasn't experiencing any tenderness to his wounds. To top his progress off, he was adopted by the Veterinary Technician who cared for him daily and fell in love with his fighter spirit:

*"Phoenix teaches us that, if you're going through hard times (ashes), you can always rise above them. You just have to believe and fight. He's our little monster, but brings us so much happiness."*



# TRAINING FOR HARD-TO-PLACE DOGS

## Otis' Story

Medical care is not the only way the SPCA Albrecht Center works to save the lives of over 95% of the homeless & neglected animals that come to our shelter. For dogs like 3-year-old mixed breed Otis, providing intensive training proves just as crucial to finding our shelter pets their forever homes.

Otis was brought to the SPCA as a stray four times, eventually surrendered by his owner and then adopted and returned twice - a total of seven intakes - due to behavior issues caused by Otis' separation anxiety. It was clear he needed specialized training.

Thanks to the support of adopters and donors, Otis raised enough funds to go through training with a trainer friend of the SPCA Albrecht Center's, Kara. Over two months, Otis received 24/7, in-home training with Kara, who has provided successful past assistance with special needs shelter dogs.

**On October 8, 2020, Otis completed his training  
and was adopted to his forever home!**



### OTIS BEFORE

Otis upon arriving to the SPCA Albrecht Center after his fifth intake to the shelter (soon to be seven intakes)



### OTIS AFTER

Otis adopted by his new forever companion, Nathan, with trainer Kara

# 2020 FINANCIALS

Established in 1935, the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare is a private, non-profit organization operating under IRS Section 501c3. We have been placing thousands of homeless and neglected animals into loving forever homes for over 85 years.

We depend solely upon local donations to support our efforts to save the lives of homeless dogs and cats in our community, and receive no regular funding from state or federal agencies, or from the ASPCA (a completely separate entity).

Our success is due to the efforts of dedicated SPCA Albrecht Center employees and volunteers, support from our Board of Directors, as well as the generous donations and continued support of our animal-loving community.

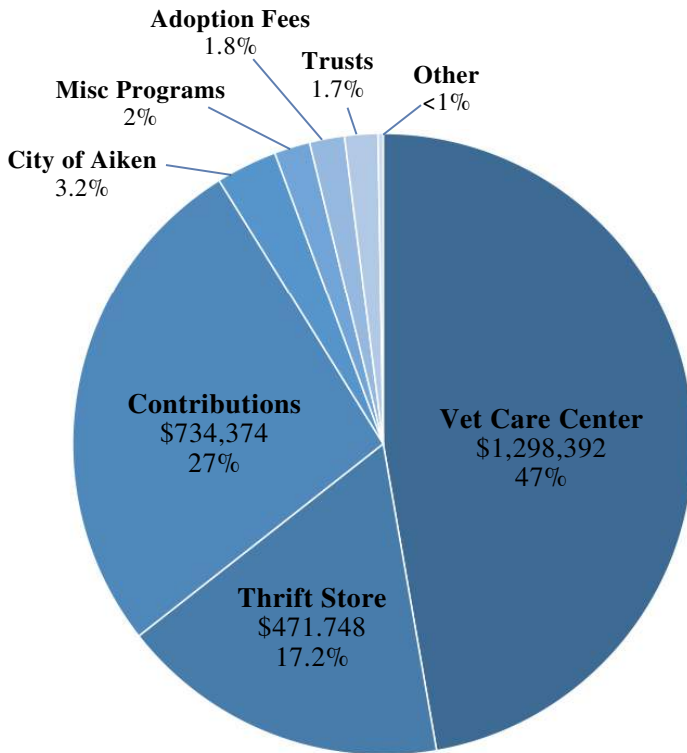
***The SPCA's triumphs are the community's triumphs and we are honored to be supported by the CSRA.***





# 2020 FINANCIALS

## 2020 REVENUES



## 2020 REVENUES

<b>Vet Care Center</b>	<b>\$1,298,392</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Thrift Store</b>	<b>\$ 471,748</b>	<b>17.2%</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 734,374</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>City of Aiken*</b>	<b>\$ 87,541</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
<b>Misc Programs/Events**</b>	<b>\$ 51,153</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Adoption Fees</b>	<b>\$ 49,973</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Trusts</b>	<b>\$ 47,556</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>Other***</b>	<b>\$ 7,265</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,748,002</b>	

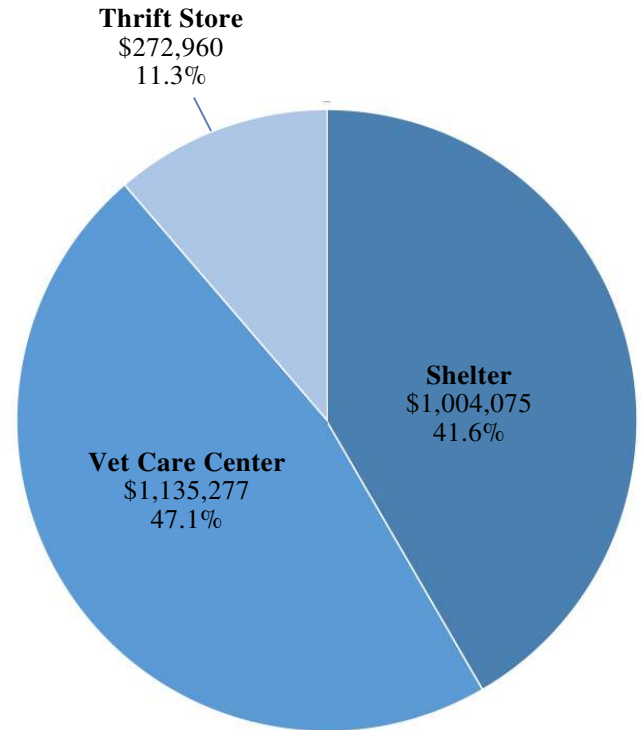
\*The City of Aiken does NOT fund SPCA operations.

City of Aiken revenues are reimbursements for the care and veterinary treatment of the animals taken in through the City of Aiken.

\*\*Includes: Fundraisers/Events, Business Sponsorships, Dog Park Registration Fees, Room Rentals, Recycling, Volunteer Registration Fees, Supplies for Resale (in Shelter), Grants

\*\*\*'Other' revenues include additional reimbursed expenses.

## 2020 EXPENSES



## 2020 EXPENSES

<b>Shelter</b>	<b>\$1,004,075</b>	<b>41.6%</b>
<b>Vet Care Center</b>	<b>\$1,135,277</b>	<b>47.1%</b>
<b>Thrift Store</b>	<b>\$ 272,960</b>	<b>11.3%</b>
<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,411,655</b>	

The 9,532 hours of volunteer service, if it were paid at \$8.00 per hour (U.S.A. minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour), would have resulted in an extra expense of \$76,256.00.

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEER TEAM!**

# IN MEMORY OF

## Mrs. Virginia 'Ginny' Albrecht

September 2, 1932 - March 12, 2020

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***An excerpt from Mrs. Ginny Albrecht's Obituary (written by her children)*** - "The world lost a passionate advocate for animals on Thursday, March 12, 2020, and her family lost a loving mother & grandmother (Oma). Ginny was born an only child on September 2, 1932 to William and Marianna (Bartkowiak) Hersz in Detroit, Michigan. Ginny became one of only a few female pharmacists when she graduated from Wayne State University in 1955. While working at the famous J.L. Hudson's Department Store in Detroit, Ginny met her future husband, Gary, when he came in to pick up a prescription for his mother. 'It was love at both sight,' they both frequently told anyone that asked.

Gary and Ginny quickly married on January 31, 1959 and started their large family under a year later. Once child number three came along, Gary and Ginny moved to a small town called Chelsea outside Ann Arbor, Michigan. They bought eighty acres so that their five children would have 'room to roam.'

Ginny gave up working as a pharmacist once they started a family. Never one to sit still, she became a beekeeper, Master gardener, incredible cook and baker, hobby painter and became a very active scuba diver, even though she never learned to swim. Later in life, Gary and Ginny traveled the world extensively. They created numerous charitable trusts to help children who had the drive to attend college and always there were animals in need which really drove Ginny.

In 2009, Gary and Ginny made Aiken, SC their home. They quickly set about putting in place their passions for education and animal welfare. The Aiken Rotary Club Foundation was a perfect fit to grow their scholarship program to help graduating high school students attain their dreams of continuing their education. [Gary Albrecht] often said that [Ginny Albrecht] taught him a lot, but she was his guiding force for his enduring love for all creatures, especially those dependent upon the kindness of humans.

**The SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare certainly would never have come into existence without our mother's passionate love and advocacy for animal welfare. Our parents left a large legacy in Aiken that will continue many years into the future."**



Mrs. Ginny Albrecht with  
her late husband Mr. Gary Albrecht

***"The SPCA Albrecht Center  
for Animal Welfare  
certainly would never  
have come into existence  
without [Mrs. Albrecht's]  
passionate love  
and advocacy  
for animal welfare."***



Mrs. Virginia 'Ginny' Albrecht





## LEGACY SOCIETY PROGRAM

The SPCA Albrecht Center's Legacy Society program honors those who have made documented bequests in their wills or other planned gifts in support of the SPCA Albrecht Center's mission. Joining the Legacy Society insures the long-term viability of the shelter by adding a stable stream of endowment income dedicated to meeting the needs of our community's companion animals.

### **Thank you to our 2020 Legacy Society members:**

Renee Alexander  
Angela Bari & Art Stremm  
Marvin & Linda Blystone  
Russell & Carol Brinkman  
Elizabeth Carey  
Tijuana Cochnauer  
Randy Georgemiller & Nico Gozal  
Mary Guynn  
Andrea Hippely

Jeff and Betsy Minton  
Barbara Nelson  
Cyndy Niland  
Dan Raley  
Jane Rice & Brian Bess  
Cynthia Steinmetz  
Lynn and David Smith  
Jack Wetzel  
Tom & Arlene Weyl  
Hugh & Wendy Williams

If you are interested in becoming a Legacy member,  
contact Barbara Nelson, President and CEO:  
**[CEO@LetLoveLive.org](mailto:CEO@LetLoveLive.org)**

**[LetLoveLive.org/How-To-Help/Planned-Giving](https://www.LetLoveLive.org/How-To-Help/Planned-Giving)**



## 2021 EVENTS

### *Paw-ty for the Shelter Pets!*



**Thursday, March 25, 2021**

**Top Dog Topgolf**  
7 pm - 9 pm

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

**Yappy Hour**  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

**Yappy Hour**  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Monday, May 17, 2021**

**Spring Thrift Store Event**  
6 pm - 8pm

**Saturday, June 12, 2021**

**'Cats on the Mat' Cat Yoga**  
11 am - 12 pm

**Saturday, June 26, 2021**

**'Pups 'n Suds' Dog Wash**  
9 am - 12 pm

**Saturday, July 10, 2021**

**'Cats on the Mat' Cat Yoga**  
11 am - 12 pm

**Saturday, July 31, 2021**

**'Pups 'n Suds' Dog Wash**  
9 am - 12 pm

**Saturday, August 14, 2021**

**'Cats on the Mat' Cat Yoga**  
11 am - 12 pm

**Saturday, August 28, 2021**

**'Pups 'n Suds' Dog Wash**  
9 am - 12 pm

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

**Yappy Hour**  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Saturday, September 18, 2021**

**'Cats on the Mat' Cat Yoga**  
11 am - 12 pm

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

**Yappy Hour**  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

**Holiday Thrift Store Event**  
Time: To Be Determined



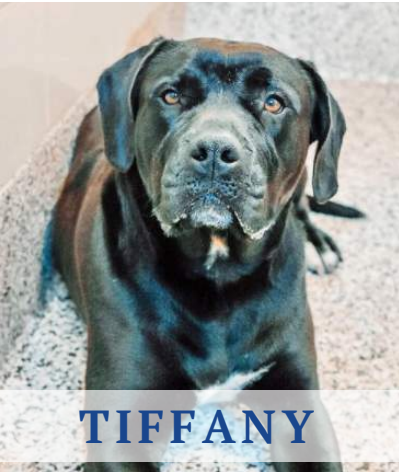
*Despite all of the challenges, we are grateful for this past year & look forward with optimism to 2021 with our compassionate, animal-loving supporters by our side.*

*Thank you for another wonderful year for the animals!*





# MEET THE ANIMALS...



**TIFFANY**



**STEKOA**



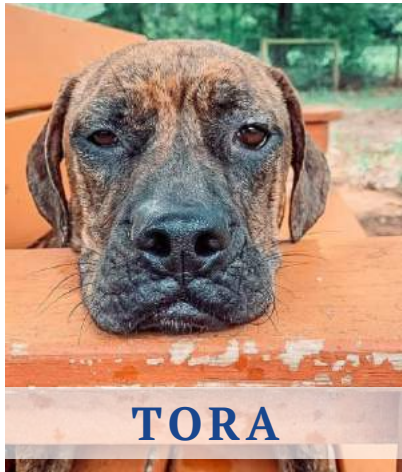
**THEA**



**SPROUT**



**SPENCER**



**TORA**



**SERAPHINA**



**KING**



**KATHY G**



**ODETTE**



**GARDENIA**



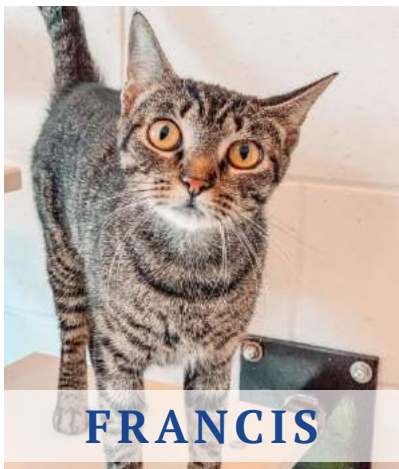
**LIONEL**



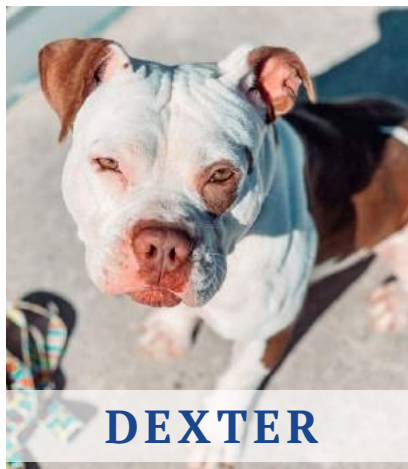
**FLOWER**



**DOTTIE**



**FRANCIS**



**DEXTER**



# ...YOU SAVED IN 2020!



**SEBASTIAN**



**BRANDY**



**BRAVEHEART**



**BEEDELE**



**BENJI**



**BOOTS**



**BLAKE**



**STUFFIN**



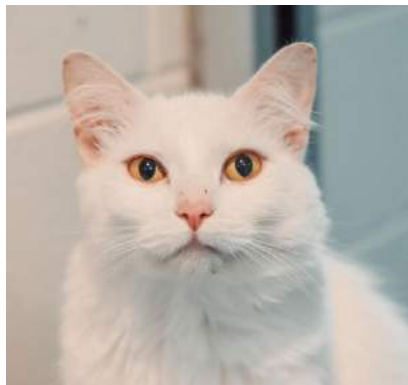
**MARILYN**



**CLAYTON**



**KEVIN**



**ELSA**



**KRINGLE**



**SAMMY**



**DISCO**



**BUBBA GUMP**



# We Need You!



Vet  
Care

Adoptions

Thrift  
Store

199 Willow Run Rd  
Aiken, SC 29801  
803.648.6864  
SPCAVetCare.org

199 Willow Run Rd  
Aiken, SC 29801  
803.648.6863  
LetLoveLive.org

1589 Whiskey Rd  
Aiken, SC 29803  
803.226.0255  
LetLoveLive.org

## Saving Lives Since 1935



*DONATE TODAY & SAVE A LIFE!*

**[www.LetLoveLive.org/Donate](http://www.LetLoveLive.org/Donate)**

*The SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare  
is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 non-profit organization.*