



# TRANSFORMING LIVES TOGETHER



IMPACT REPORT 2023



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At East Bay SPCA, we are proud of our history of providing hope and care to thousands of animals in need. Our work to create a safe haven for homeless animals and help pets and their people has grown considerably over the years. In 2023, we were approaching a significant milestone – our 150th anniversary as a pillar in our community. On the threshold of this anniversary, we put our energy and resources into meeting the changing and increasing needs of our community.



In 2023, a convergence of crises faced the animal community, and we felt the impact. More animals were entering our shelters, many needing a significant amount of care and resources. Pet owners in our community were struggling and in need of access to pet care. And with the national shortage of veterinary staff, we were feeling the strain of our community's need.

With these complex difficulties at the front of our minds, we took action to support the evolving needs of our community and the animals we serve. We increased our spay/neuter voucher program by over 30% to provide affordable access to spay/neuter resources for pet owners in need. To support the influx of animals entering our shelter, we shifted our resources to provide more behavioral support to meet our animals' physical and mental needs. Through innovation and the support of our community, we found ways to improve the care we provide for animals facing medical issues.

Thank you for the support and dedication you provided to allow us to meet these challenges. We are grateful for friends like you who make it possible to change the lives of animals who need it most. Together, we are **More Than a Shelter**.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Stay tuned for more exciting updates on our lifesaving work.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison".

**ALLISON**  
President and CEO

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Terri Dyer**  
*Treasurer*

**Miranda Helmer**  
*Board Chair*

**Bridge Mei**  
*Vice Chair, Governance Chair*

**Jennifer Nam**  
*Board Member*

**Susie Portmann**  
*Board Member*

**Kristi Rocha**  
*Chair, Development Committee*

**Derek Scott**  
*Board Member*

**Steve Winchell**  
*Chair, Finance Committee*

**Garrett Wymore**  
*Chair, Audit Committee*

**George Yuhas**  
*Secretary*

## EAST BAY SPCA LEADERSHIP

**Allison Lindquist**  
*President and CEO*

**Karalyn Aronow**  
*Vice President of Operations*

**Kristen Beitzel**  
*Vice President of Medical Services*

**Blair Biddle**  
*Vice President of Finance*

**Julie Henderson**  
*Vice President of Philanthropy*

**Sandra Mallalieu**  
*Vice President of Marketing and Communications*

# 2023 FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023



- Public Support **70.1%**
- Veterinary Services **18.5%**
- Shelter & Public Programs **11.4%**



- Shelter & Adoption Services **46%**
- Veterinary Services **30%**
- Administration **10%**
- Fundraising **7%**
- Humane Education Services **3%**
- Humane Advocacy Services **3%**
- Behavior & Training Services **1%**

## 2023 NUMBERS BEHIND THE LIVES

TOTAL ANIMALS SHELTERED\*

**2,970**

TOTAL ADOPTIONS

**2,526**

## 2023 ADOPTIONS



Dogs  
**23%**



Cats  
**22%**



Puppies  
**14%**



Kittens  
**41%**

\*This includes animals in our care from 2022 that remained in care into 2023.

# SHELTER COMPLEXITIES

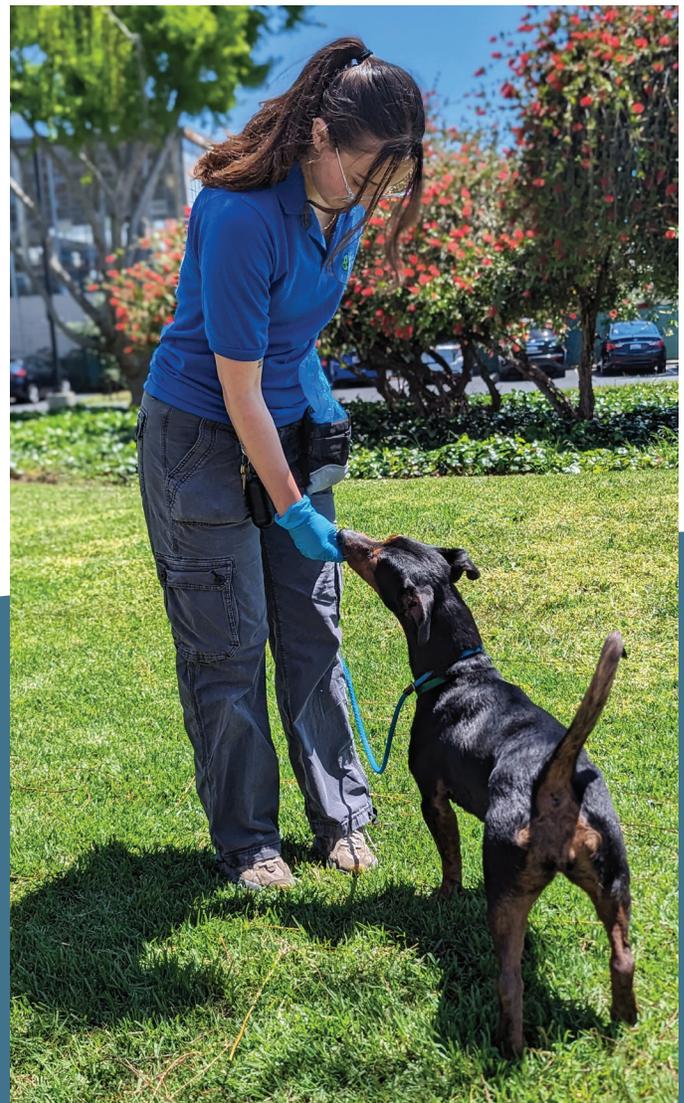
---

Across the country, animal welfare organizations are seeing a shift in the volume and type of animals that are entering shelters. Shelters just like ours are seeing a gap between the animals coming through our doors and the types of animals that are getting adopted more quickly. In 2023, we felt this trend more acutely than in years past. More large dogs, animals with behavior challenges, and animals needing medical care were coming to us. At the same time, pet owners in our community faced economic challenges that made it difficult to provide care for their pets or adopt.

One of the biggest challenges was the rise in large dogs in number and percentage of animals in our care. In 2021, we contracted with the City of San Leandro to serve as the housing facility for strays and animals served by animal control.. The contract played a large role in the increased number of stray animals coming to our organization. Many of them that came through the contract were large dogs. Financial and housing issues in the community prevented many pet owners from keeping their large dogs and impacted potential adopters' ability to adopt them. This resulted in these dogs staying at our shelter for longer lengths of time, which contributed to increased stress among them and behavior challenges.

In response to this challenge, we shifted our resources to meet the needs of the large dogs in our care. Most dogs over 50 pounds require more exercise and attention to keep their stress levels down in the shelter and ensure their physical and mental needs are met. We planned for and created a new role within our Behavior & Training team to be able to spend

more time addressing their behavioral needs and to collaborate with our Animal Care team to address individual animal challenges.. We also expanded our field trip and sleepover programs, which provide our big dogs with a break from the shelter and additional individualized attention from volunteers. Finally, we made a concerted effort to increase our foster base to include more homes that could take in large dogs. These combined efforts served to reduce the stress and behavioral impacts experienced by the large dogs that result from longer lengths of stay and increased their adoptability.



Many animals coming through our doors in 2023 also had significantly more medical needs than in years prior. Some had minor illnesses, but we also saw an increase in older animals and animals with injuries. To provide them with the best care possible, we added a Shelter Medicine Associate to our medical team. The Shelter Medicine Associate position helped our Shelter Medicine team increase their bandwidth to do more spay/neuter and medical surgeries per day and helped to support our expanding foster program. The Shelter Medicine Associate helped place animals with medical issues into foster homes and corresponded with our foster families to ensure they had the support they needed. This allowed more of our animals to rest and recover in a home with a loving family instead of a noisy, busy shelter.

While 2023 was a year of challenges, we are proud of our ability to respond by increasing our capacity and efficiency, and grateful to our community for providing the support we needed. From foster families to volunteers to donors, our village made it possible to provide exemplary care to our shelter animals, and give them the future they deserve.



Foster families  
volunteered for

~21,600

hours

1,090

animals cared for in  
foster homes

50%

more shelter animals  
received behavior  
resources vs 2022

# MEDICAL MILESTONES

---

- With the **purchase of an ultrasound machine** in 2023 we decreased the cost of vital testing for our clients, and shortened wait times for results. We're grateful for the generous 2022 Growl, Meow & Wine donations that allowed us to make this upgrade, and to PetSmart Charities for funding our staff's ultrasound training.
- In 2023 we were one of the first shelters to utilize a new, **breakthrough treatment** called Canine Parvovirus Monoclonal Antibody (CPMA). The first and only proven treatment for Parvovirus, CPMA reduces the duration and intensity of Parvovirus symptoms and drastically improves the likelihood of survival for dogs and puppies affected with the disease. We've treated a number of dogs and puppies using CPMA, with great success. "It's really kind of a game changer for this disease," says East Bay Shelter Veterinarian Dr. Josie Noah. "There is no question that it will give animals the best chance of survival from this disease."
- We're proud that the Theodore B. Travers Family Veterinary Clinic received its **fourth re-accreditation from the AAHA in 2023**. Each year we've exceeded the previous year's scores as we work to maintain the highest caliber of veterinary medicine for our clients.
- We were able to **successfully re-launch full-time spay/neuter services** at our high-volume Spay & Neuter Surgery Center in 2023, something that hadn't been possible since 2021 due to staffing shortages. We performed nearly 3,900 spay/neuter surgeries at the clinic in 2023.
- Thanks to generous donations, we were able to fully fund the online Registered Veterinary Technician training for several staff members in 2023. "We've been able to increase access to care for our community by growing our team's skillset and knowledge base," says VP of Medical Services Kristen Beitzel.



## What's at Stake

COVID fast-tracked the **veterinarian shortage**, prompting closures, departures, and early retirement for many vets. The U.S. now has a projected **deficit of 41,000** veterinarians by 2030, which would leave 75 million pets without access to essential veterinary care.

# HUMANE ADVOCACY

## SKYROCKETING NEED AND EVOLUTION

We know firsthand the joy, comfort, and companionship that animals bring. We also know that many families are facing challenges such as housing issues, lack of affordable resources for pet and veterinary care, and other barriers that put access to pet care out of reach. In response to the increasing needs faced by our community in 2023, we expanded our Humane Advocacy Programs, which provide pet owners with innovative solutions to keep pets healthy and with the families who love them. "Sometimes pets getting care is the difference between people being able to keep their pets or not," says Kristen Beitzel, Vice President of Medical Services at East Bay SPCA.

In 2023, we expanded our Veterinary Assistance Program. The program aims to provide pet owners experiencing financial hardship with affordable access to veterinary care for their pets. Our Humane Advocacy team partners with pet owners to access care through our Theodore B. Travers Family Veterinary Clinic or with one of our private veterinary clinic partners. Our team provides assistance in making financial decisions and ensuring pet owners have the support and resources they need to care for their pet. By creating partnerships with local veterinary clinics, we increased our capacity and helped pet owners receive care more quickly.

Our Spay/Neuter Voucher Program saw huge growth in 2023. The Program provides vouchers to pet owners experiencing financial hardship for spay/neuter services at a discounted rate through our veterinary clinic. We hired a new veterinarian, which allowed us to increase the number of spay/neuter appointments we could provide. From 2022 to 2023, the number of pets that were given spay/neuter vouchers for our clinic increased over 30%.



**PET PANTRY PROGRAM**  
**288,102 Meals for Pets Distributed**  
↑13% from 2022  
761 households received pet meals



**SPAY / NEUTER VOUCHERS**  
**318 Total Provided**  
↑50% from 2022  
Vouchers valued at \$68K



**VETERINARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**449 Pets Served**  
at our Theodore B. Travers Family Veterinary Clinic  
↑33% pets seen over 2022



Our Pet Food Pantry Program also grew. We began our human food bank partnership program, which provides human food banks with pet food and supplies to distribute to pet owners experiencing financial hardship. We now partner with six local food banks to provide pet owners with the supplies they need to care for their beloved pets.

More families and their pets received the care they needed to keep their pets where they belong. "Partnering with East Bay SPCA has made it possible to provide more to the folks we serve. There's no other program like the Humane Advocacy Program," says Jessica Lefebre, Executive Director of PALS East Bay.

# IMPACT OF INVESTMENT

---

Libby McLaren's love for animals began from childhood. As the youngest of 3 children, she grew up surrounded by cats, dogs, lizards, and hamsters that her older siblings brought home and cared for. She loved them all, but it was the cats who lived in her heart and slept on her pillow every night.

As the years went on, Libby's love for animals grew and she dreamed of one day becoming a veterinarian. However, just before starting high school, Libby was discouraged from pursuing her dream by a veterinarian who told her girls should not pursue the profession as to not take jobs away from boys. Her heart was broken, but she was adamant that she could make a difference for animals. She became a volunteer at the local animal shelter, which would eventually be known as East Bay SPCA. "It was a place of open hearts and love," says Libby.



Libby and her cat, Owly

"I vowed to be the best volunteer they had ever had, whether boys or girls." She spent every Tuesday afternoon there for the next four years. Libby became known as the "cat kid" because she would do anything and everything to help the cats there. When she graduated high school and ended her tenure as a volunteer in 1973, Libby made her first donation to the animal shelter. She saw how even small donations could make a big difference for animals.

Years later, fate seemed to bring Libby back to East Bay SPCA and her connection to the organization. During a run, a stray dog followed her home. She took the sweet dog to East Bay SPCA in hopes of reconnecting her with her family. That same day, the family was found and reunited with their beloved dog, and Libby was reminded of those cherished days of volunteering at the shelter. She was so moved by the event that she decided to become a monthly donor to show her appreciation for the shelter that had given her so much. She has now been a Constant Companion for 37 years.

**"I have followed the mission of East Bay SPCA as it has grown and wrapped its arms around the importance of being a shelter that emphasizes the human and animal connection."**

"I'm proud to be a Constant Companion and help facilitate the services and resources that are offered with open hearts at our wonderful East Bay SPCA." We are so grateful to Libby and her many years of support to the animals in our care.

Kathie Long is a dog lover and equestrian who has been a long-time friend to East Bay SPCA through volunteerism and donations. Kathie, in partnership with her late husband, has been a happy, faithful supporter of East Bay SPCA for over 40 years. Kathie says, "I have stayed engaged with East Bay SPCA for all of these years because of the broad range of things they do for animals in the Bay Area. Education is the key. We must educate young people about respecting all animals and always showing kindness."

**"I love what East Bay SPCA is doing with expanding their role to help animals even beyond the Bay Area."**



Kathie's beloved dog, Boni



Bob's grandson Hank with his dog Jack

Bob Butler, and his wife Diane, are dog lovers and animal rescue enthusiasts who have been generously supporting our work for over a decade. Bob comments, "I've enjoyed a close relationship with Allison and the organization for many years, and I know my contributions are supporting the animals, but also people in our East Bay community with their pets in need."

**"They do wonderful work, and I'm honored to be a part of it."**

# IN THEIR WORDS

---

Our volunteers make all the difference. In 2023 they contributed 27,930 hours in a diverse range of roles, assisting with everything from feline enrichment and event support to training assistance and data entry. We averaged approximately 485 volunteers on any given month, up from an average of 415 per month in 2022. But their impact is so much bigger than numbers can describe. Here's what they had to say about their time supporting our work:



**Jessie Wong, Dublin Volunteer Lead,  
Feline Animal Care & Feline Companion & Enrichment since 2009**

"When my big cat, Dixie, passed away in 2009, I wanted to explore volunteering. The night I attended the Volunteer Orientation I saw a big cat who looked just like Dixie...I knew right then that I'd made the right choice. 15 years have gone by, and I am grateful to be able to assist staff and kitties."

**Todd Nelson, Dublin Canine Socialization &  
Behavior & Training Volunteer since 2007**

"Honestly, I feel lucky that I get to play with different dogs every week. I appreciate seeing the same animal and how they improve over time. If I've had stress during the week, spending time with dogs is really wonderful. And I share in the joy when they find their forever family."



**Carol Laidlaw, Oakland Volunteer Mentor,  
Feline Enrichment & Feline Isolation Socialization since 2013**

"One of the things that I like most about working adoptions is seeing cats go home to nice families. You just know that it's going to be a great fit. It's wonderful to see them go home with conscientious owners."

**Cory Abshear, Oakland Field Trip Foster & Canine  
Behavior/Training Volunteer since 2020**

"My favorite thing about my volunteer shift is working with the orange and yellow collar pups. Giving them the time and space to just be themselves when they are constantly on display goes such a long way. Learning their needs and watching them open up with me is a very amazing feeling."



**Sabina Pecci, Oakland Canine Behavior/Training  
Volunteer and Foster since 2017**

"I think fostering is amazing. It gives dogs a much-needed break from shelter life, allows more effective training and behavior modification, helps identify and address issues in the home and ultimately increases the chances of a successful adoption. It truly does save lives."

# THANK YOU

## To Our 2023 Growl, Meow & Wine Sponsors

### Best in Show

**Bob Connor and Thyda Yim**

### Leader of the Pack



### Top Dog



• Bob Butler •

### CAT'S MEOW

**Travers Family Foundation**  
Barbara McKee and Richard Rocha

**Maureen Cassingham**  
Linda Huber



**Zach Zachowski and Barbara Gabel**  
*Retired Founders of Zachary's Pizza*

### BEST FRIENDS



Kara Mark and Ena Cratsenburg | Terri and Brad Dyer | Miranda and Dan Helmer | Marilyn and Tom Leahy  
Bridge and Natalie Mei | Phyllis Meyer | Jennifer Nam | Kristi and Paul Rocha | Stephen and Lisa Winchell  
Bob and Sandi Wright | George & Risa Yuhas

### Faithful Friends



• Scott Miller Executive Search •

### Media Partner





8323 BALDWIN STREET - OAKLAND, CA 94621

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No 1930  
Oakland, CA



About East Bay SPCA: Established in 1874, East Bay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (East Bay SPCA) is proud to be one of the nation's oldest shelters and a leading innovator in the Bay Area region. East Bay SPCA is More Than a Shelter, transforming the lives of cats and dogs by enriching the human-animal bond through accessible and respected expertise. Learn more at [eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org).

East Bay SPCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Federal Tax ID # 94-1322202.

Get Social With Us  
@eastbayspca



## LOCATIONS

---

**Oakland Adoption Center**  
8323 Baldwin Street  
Oakland, CA 94621

**Dublin Adoption Center**  
4651 Gleason Drive  
Dublin, CA 94568

**Theodore B. Travers  
Family Veterinary Clinic**  
8323 Baldwin Street  
Oakland, CA 94621

**Oakland Spay/Neuter  
Surgery Center**  
410 Hegenberger Road  
Oakland, CA 94621