

Contra Costa Animal Services

## Animal Benefit Fund Report



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## Introduction

It is our pleasure to present Contra Costa Animal Services' (CCAS) annual report for the Animal Benefit Fund (ABF). This is the first time we've published a comprehensive review of the ABF's activities, and it marks the progress we believe we've made in strengthening and modernizing our ability to care for animals in our shelters.

The Animal Benefit Fund was established by the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors in 1986 as a way to accept monetary donations from compassionate individuals who want to help our shelter animals. All funds are used to enhance the care and well-being of animals in our shelters, and to enhance programs of humane welfare and education for the residents of Contra Costa County.

In FY16/17, ABF funds were allocated to a range of projects and initiatives geared towards enhancing the care and enrichment of our animals. Propelled by the collective generosity of 617 donors who contributed $\$ 90,529$, CCAS made significant improvements in the areas of increasing adoptions, enabling families to retain their pets (thus keeping them out of the shelter), augmenting spay and neuter services in the County and amplifying awareness of CCAS and the importance of licensing and microchipping among other things. The incredible amount of giving brought the Fund Balance to $\$ 818,696.98$. To our donors, we say, "Thank You" for believing in this organization and for providing us the tools necessary to help and save even more lives.

Behind every number is a story. This report highlights a few of those that touched and inspired us, and spurred us to action. For that, our thanks go to the community, adopters, transfer partners, staff and volunteers who either contributed to the fund, adopted an animal into their home or organization, or who gave their time or talent to ensure the best outcomes possible for the animals in our care. The heart-warming results you will read about here are testament to the spirit of compassion, innovation and hard work exhibited by CCAS in the last fiscal year.

The Smith-Cash family adopted Oso (now Sammy) and they say he is the love of their lives! He loves to play and cudolle with his II Chihuahua sister. "To the volunteer who sat in the main lobby with Oso in January. I was there to meet a different dog, but you said "Oso is great, don't you want to meet with him?" I thought, maybe. My son and l ended up meeting with him last out of 3 other dogs and we knew he was the one. He has completely changed my life and brings me joy every second of every day. So much so, I volunteered to foster Calgary (another dog at the shefter). I am committed to saving and being the voice of such beautiful animals. Sammy is amazing and the aloof and shy Calgary is now nestled up with a loving heart, kisses and full bells: Thank you who ever you are! You changed my life!"



## Adoptions

The ABF supported a range of free and reduced fee adoption promotions in FY16/17 to remove financial barriers to adoption. These promotions were a significant contributing factor to CCAS achieving its largest number of adoptions in the last decade.



## Pet Retention Program

A truly innovative and effective program, CCAS' Pet Retention Program has proven wildly effective in keeping animals in their homes and out of our shelters. In FY16/17, ABF funding supported the development of this new program - a partnership between Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation and CCAS - in its first full year of operation.


## Pet Retention Allocation


\$18,701

- Medical Assistance - 80\%
- Training \& Behavior - $10 \%$
- Other (pet deposits, boarding, food) - $10 \%$

Allocated to Pet Retention to keep pets in their homes.


## Transfer Partner Assistance

Launched in 2016, the CCAS Bridge Program was developed as a mechanism to assist our transfer partners in adopting more animals, particularly those with medical or behavioral issues, by providing financial assistance that will help to alleviate the costs of medical and other services transfer partners incur as a result of pulling special needs animals. In addition to removing financial barriers that often prevent transfer partners from pulling special needs animals, the Bridge Program has also helped to foster stronger relationships with local vet hospitals and veterinarians.



## Education \& Awareness

Ensuring that our community is aware and educated about CCAS and the benefits of adoption is a key element in engaging residents in meaningful ways. Over the last fiscal year, ABF funds supported an array of projects that sought to increase awareness and garner goodwill towards the department. From developing television PSAs highlighting the compassion of our department and the importance of licensing, to strategic use of social media to engage underserved communities, ABF funds have allowed CCAS to take our marketing and public education game to the next level.


Allocated to education and awareness.

Two TV PSAs for CCAS Goodwill and Licensing.

FB ads to boost adoption specials.

Quantify success with FB metrics, video views, and other tracking mechanisms.



## Spay \& Neuter Programs

In FY16/17, CCAS allocated over $\$ 10,000$ in ABF funds to address the dearth of low-cost spay and neuter services in Contra Costa County. Through strategic partnerships with Fix our Ferals, SNIP and others, CCAS was able to support the spaying and neutering of many animals that would have not have otherwise been altered due to cost. From dogs and cats, to rabbits and potbellied pigs, CCAS is always seeking new ideas and partnerships to increase low-cost spay and neuter programs in Contra Costa County.



One of our Running Dog Litule Wheels alumni, Mikey was adopted to a loving family who shared this update with us.
Mikey loves hiking, exploring, and running (Mikey was previously a member of Little Wheels Running Club). Mikey loves his roommates, a Greyhound and a Husky. Mikey is doing great in the Contra Costa County Small Dog Class. I can't imagine my life without Mikey"

## Animal Welfare Projects

The majority of ABF expenditures in FY16/17, CCAS implemented numerous animal welfare projects and initiatives geared towards enhancing the direct enrichment and care of CCAS animals. From new "cat condos," enrichment and agility equipment for dogs, to a new outside exercise space for quarantined animals and a feral cat environment, CCAS improved enrichment opportunities by leaps and bounds.


## Financials

## Animal Benefit Fund Totals

|  | Amount Spent | Amount Budgeted | Variance | Recommendation for next year |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Panda | \$1,832.00 | \$5,000.00 | \$3,168.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| Education \& Awareness | \$20,636.32 | \$5,000.00 | (\$15,636.32) | \$25,000.00 |
| Pet Retention | \$18,702.51 | \$50,000.00 | \$31,297.49 | \$30,000.00 |
| Transfer Partner Assistance | \$18,527.02 | \$25,000.00 | \$6,472.98 | \$25,000.00 |
| Pets for Seniors | \$6,254.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$3,746.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Spay/Neuter Program | \$10,451.04 | \$45,000.00 | \$34,548.96 | \$45,000.00 |
| Discounted Adoptions | \$26,045.00 | \$30,000.00 | \$3,955.00 | \$75,000.00 |
| Animal Welfare Projects | \$147,796.00 | \$10,000.00 | (\$137,796.00) | \$85,000.00 |
| Totals | \$250,243.89 | \$180,000.00 | (\$70,243.89) | \$300,000.00 |

## Animal Benefit Fund Balance



