

All of us for all of them.™

### 2018 IMPACT REPORT



### **Dear Friend:**



Throughout 2018, I watched with pride — and no small sense of wonder — as our new adoption center rose from its footings here at The Animal Foundation. Even more gratifying, our lifesaving statistics rose in similar fashion — to the point that, by year's end, the new Engelstad Foundation Adoption Center was ready for occupancy (three months ahead of

schedule) and program outcomes showed that our effort to save every healthy and treatable animal in our care by the end of the year 2020 is right on track. This was the year I realized that the familiar Mission: Possible 2020 mantra is no longer a goal. It's our destination.

Last year, we reached several meaningful milestones on our journey toward Mission: Possible. New and expanded enrichment programs protect our shelter animals' behavioral health and better prepare them for adoption. Innovative outreach efforts help address our valley's pet overpopulation issues. Foster families provide loving homes at record levels. And wayfaring cats are happily at work in a program that dramatically improves their chances for long, healthy lives. Importantly, we also completed our capital campaign, ensuring that our work will have a modern, efficient home base for decades to come. In these pages we'll celebrate those achievements, even as we remain acutely aware that thousands more of our valley's most vulnerable animals still need to be saved. We know that the future holds challenges we must still address. We understand that the last leg of any journey is always the hardest. Our team is under no illusion about the difficulty of the task ahead, but I'm confident we'll rise to the challenge, just as our new facility has risen in such dramatic fashion this year to become a lifesaving reality.

Thanks to supporters like you, our work has a new home and a firm foundation. And here on this solid ground we'll take our boldest, most pronounced step toward the day when we can save every healthy, treatable animal in the Las Vegas valley.

Thank you,

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Christine Robinson Chief Executive Officer

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### In 2018, we helped form new families...

You could say that Greg and Alicia's marriage was built on a strong foundation. Before they ever met, each had adopted from The Animal Foundation, setting the stage for a most unusual matchmaking.

Alicia's dog, Luka, didn't care for other dogs — at all. But he inexplicably took a liking to Trigger at the dog park. That's how Alicia met Trigger's dad, Greg. Soon the foursome became inseparable; so much so that, when Greg proposed in 2017, Trigger was part of the action: He carried a letter to Alicia that said, among other things, "Will you be my forever mom?" Our Adoptions team placed 11,496 pets in 2018, perhaps laying the groundwork for future love connections like Alicia and Greg's.



### 2018 Board of Directors

#### **Executive Committee**

Andrew Vaughan, DVM, DACVIM Chairperson Matthew Frazier – Vice Chairperson Robin E. Perkins – Secretary Rikki Tanenbaum – Treasurer Michael Accardi – Member at Large

#### **Board Members**

Lisa M. Gann, CPA Trinka Kuftedjian Linda Marvin Kevin Murakami Brette Sadler Matthew Silverman Paul Snow

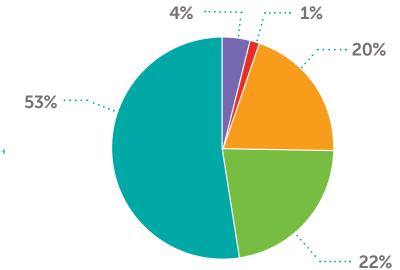
#### **Emeritus Board Members**

Doug Crosby Jane Greenspun Gale Tom Kaplan Marilyn Larson Vivica Marshall Dianne Merkey Chris Stacey Michael Wilkins Dale Wynn

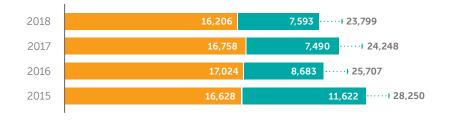


www.animalfoundation.com ©2019 The Animal Foundation In 2015, we launched Mission: Possible 2020, our initiative to save the lives of all healthy and treatable animals who enter our care. Our progress toward that goal remains steady and substantial.



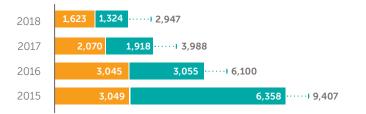


#### **INTAKES - DOGS & CATS**



**EUTHANASIA - DOGS & CATS** 

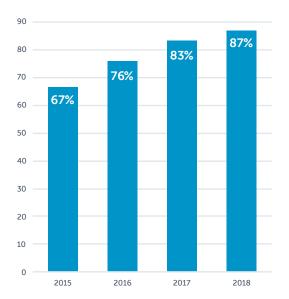


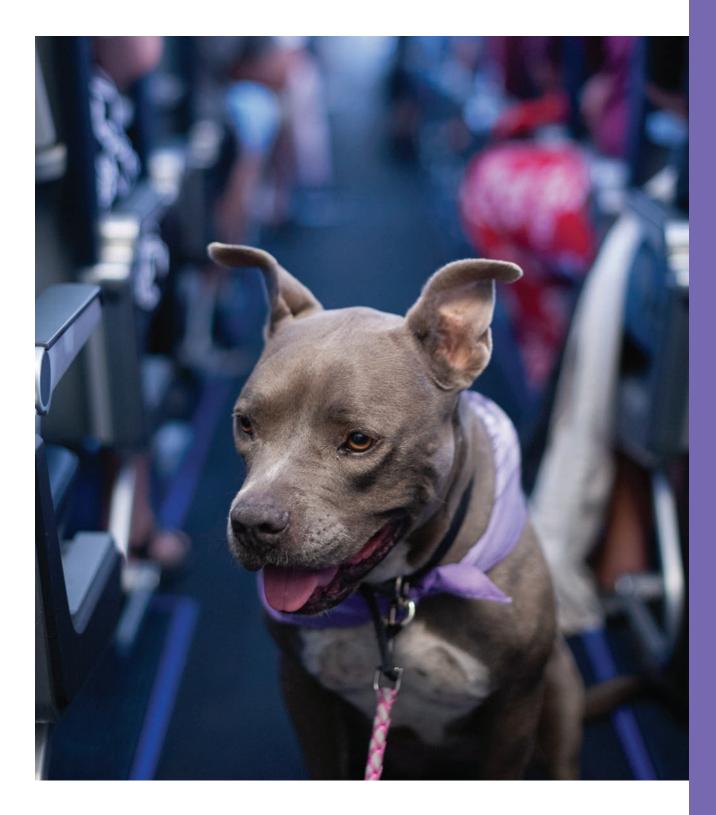




69% Decrease Since Launch of Mission: Possible 2020

### LIVE RELEASE RATE DOGS AND CATS





## We created new pathways home...

As we work to find permanent homes for shelter pets, we often go the extra mile. In the case of Mona, we went a little further.

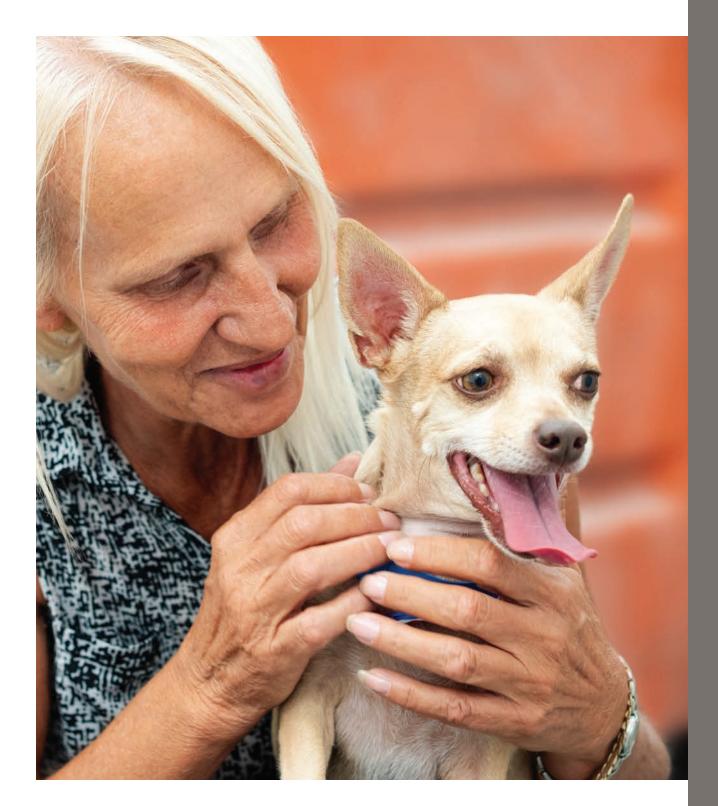
Mona's 1,148-mile journey started last spring, when she logged her 400th day at the shelter — a record length of stay. That occasion underscored how our expanded enrichment programs help us keep animals healthy in a shelter environment longer. It also made our team all the more determined to find Mona a home.

So we made her a star on social media; and our "Myths of Mona" video series went viral, eventually reaching the Facebook feed of Mona's original owners in Nebraska. They had reluctantly surrendered her when they moved from Las Vegas the prior year. Heartbroken to learn that their girl was still looking for a home, they reached out for our help reuniting the family.

After a week of logistical wrangling, at 7:45 one Thursday morning, the passengers aboard Allegiant Air flight #498 to Grand Island were greeted by an unusual sight. A 55-pound American Staffordshire Terrier confidently wagged her tail as she walked down the aisle of the Airbus A320 to a reserved row in the back. That day was Mona's 450th in our care. But, a few hours later as she walked off the plane and saw her forever family again, a yearplus separation suddenly seemed like a mere moment. Mona was finally home.

## We found opportunity in unexpected places...

Our cat-saving efforts take a variety of creative forms, including putting some to work as critter control specialists. Koukla found a permanent home when St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church adopted her and a companion as part of our Working Cats program. Now, they control the rodent population on the church's 10-acre property in exchange for food, water, shelter and medical care. After work, they relax in a spacious outdoor enclosure erected by the church. Parishioners love the duo and pitch in often by donating food, litter and blankets. In 2018, 61 cats found homes as working cats, thanks to innovative adopters like the parish at St. John, a local farm-owning family and a downtown consignment shop operator. We'll continue our job search on behalf of working cats in places like nurseries, factories, warehouses and even residential backyards.



## We worked to keep people and pets together...

Originally from Swaziland, Daphne found herself homeless in Las Vegas. The victim of serial crime and its devastating after-effects, Daphne was unable to care for her pets — a parakeet named Pretty Boy and a Chihuahua named Sparky. She turned to our Keeping Every Person & Pet Together (KEPPT) team, designed to keep pets right where they belong: at home with their families. We provided free boarding while Daphne got back on her feet. Ultimately, Daphne, Pretty Boy and Sparky were reunited.

KEPPT also provides food, behavior training, rent deposits and even home repairs to keep families together. In 2018 the program kept 3,786 animals with their owners — people like Daphne, with limited resources but abundant love for their pets.

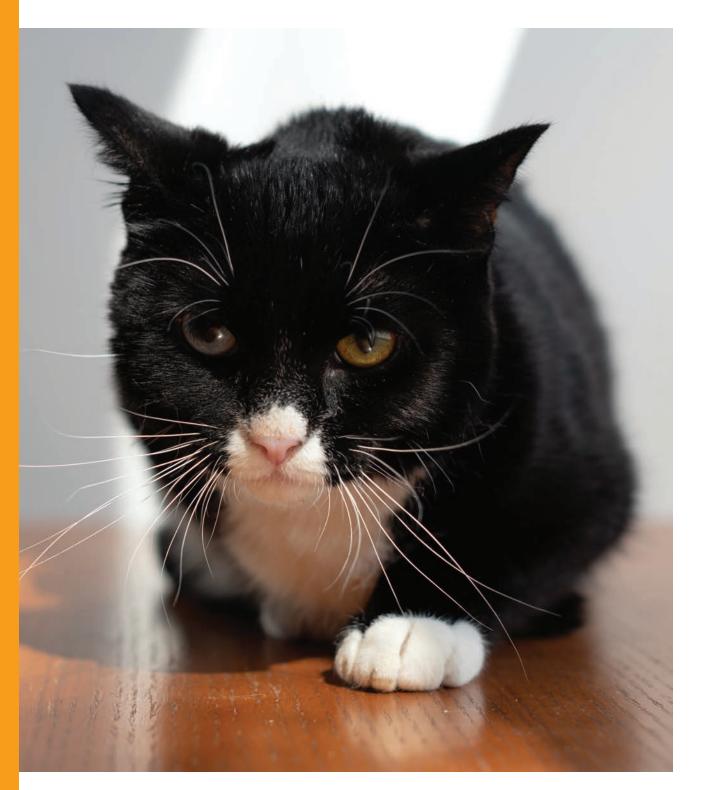
# We inspired kindness...

Diana was found in an abandoned apartment, emaciated and suffering from multiple fractures in her rear leg. She needed specialized care that we had neither the facilities nor the funding to provide, so we turned to the community for help. Response was tremendous; and, before 2018 came to a close, donors had given tens of thousands of dollars to our CARE Fund, which helps animals like Diana who come to us with special needs.

Those CAREgivers joined a generous, growing community of supporters, which includes thousands of monthly and one-time donors as well as major philanthropic organizations like Petco Foundation, PetSmart Charities, The Engelstad Foundation, the Mel & Marilyn Larson Foundation, the Dave & Cheryl Duffield Foundation, Lazin Animal Foundation and the Greenspun family. Our partners at the City of Las Vegas and Clark County also provide generous lifesaving grants.

Together, our supporters helped make it possible for us to save 21,955 animals in 2018.

Diana, by the way, was adopted within days of her surgery. Her family includes an adoring mom and two playful Chihuahua siblings.





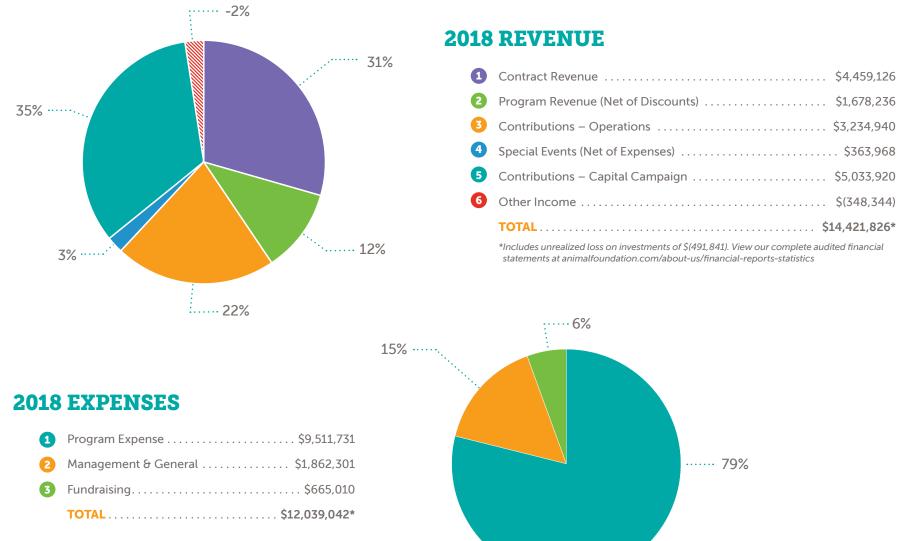
## We changed minds — and hearts...

In 2018, we visited 1,900 Clark County students, speaking about the importance of responsible pet ownership. We also invited 300 students to our campus, where we turned the tables and let them do the teaching.

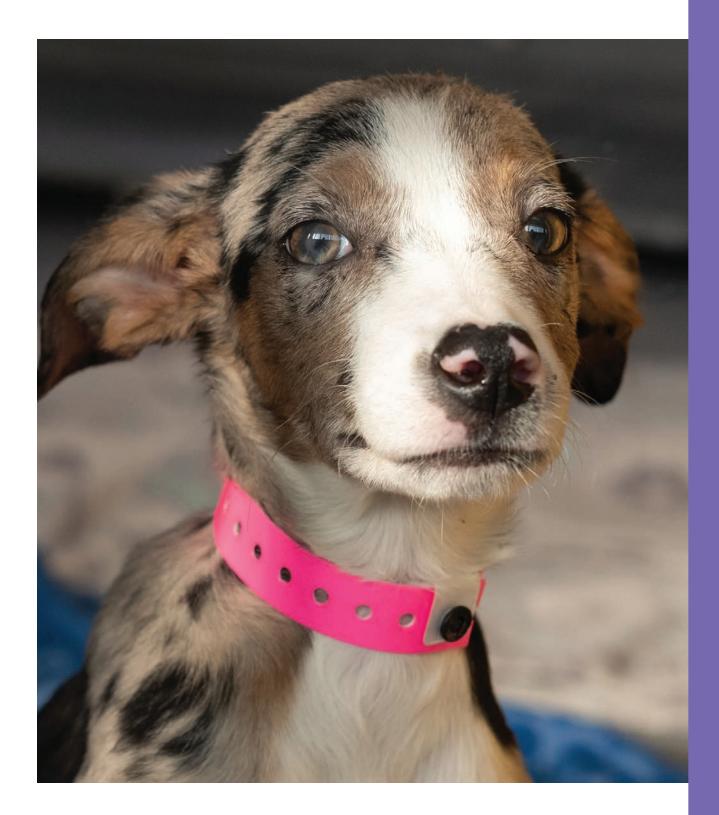
Participants in our Reading to Dogs program hone their reading skills in a fun, judgement-free space. The experience helps students gain confidence in their academic abilities and develop greater empathy for animals.

The kennel is our classroom. Inside, youngsters fill the aisles, sitting on reading mats or chairs. As the words flow, barking dogs become docile and relaxed — as if they're intent on listening to the tale. For shelter dogs, the experience can reduce stress and anxiety while teaching appropriate social behavior. Student-centric programs like these help us engage the community and develop a new generation of animal advocates. We'll expand these outreach efforts in 2019 with the completion of the new Maddie's Lifesaving Community Center.

## Audited Financial Results 2018



\*This amount includes non-cash depreciation of \$577,520. View our complete audited financial statements at animalfoundation.com/about-us/financial-reports-statistics



## We rose to the challenge...

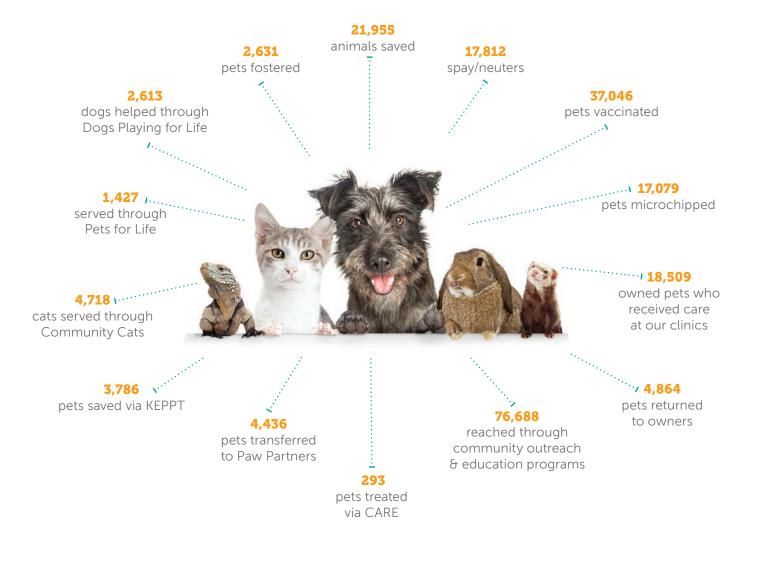
As 2018 came to a close, our team faced a lifesaving challenge that put our resources to the test – and our penchant for teamwork in the spotlight.

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, we received word of a confiscation involving so many dogs that their owner had lost count. Within hours, 35 dogs — either purebred Catahoulas or mixes of that legendary breed — arrived. One of them, Dot, was unfamiliar with even basic leash training. Timid and quivering, she had to be carried through the shelter as our admissions and medical teams rushed to care for her and her siblings.

Catahoulas are known for their stamina, agility and intellectual curiosity; and those traits served Dot and her fellow travelers well as they began interacting with our behavioral and enrichment teams. Soon, our placement team stepped in; and, by year's end, every available Catahoula was in a permanent home, in a foster home or with a Paw Partner able to provide specialized care.



## 2018 by the numbers



### On the cover...

In 2018, 2,631 shelter animals found their lives enriched by foster parents. Asia's story involves three of them.

She arrived frightened and plagued by medical issues. Her prospects looked dim until Debbie volunteered to foster Asia at work. Soon she was roaming the entire office suite, collecting back rubs and treats along her path.

Feeling better and braver, Asia then spent time with fosters Daffodil and Kevin, who snapped the stunning image that graces our cover and caused a stir on social media. Shortly after that, Asia met her forever father, a military veteran so struck by her mesmerizing eyes that he gave her an Instagram page.

Today, Asia is in service dog training, so one day she can help others the way Debbie, Daffodil and Kevin helped her.

