SAS ANNUAL REPORT 2020





FRIENDS OF THE SCITUATE ANIMAL SHELTER, INC.
ScituateAnimalShelter.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

What a difference a year makes!

While the pandemic challenged us in many ways, our community seemed to treasure their animals more, and SAS grew stronger and more nimble.

Safety was our priority, and we went virtual for meetings, fundraising, and even some aspects of adoptions. To limit people in the Shelter, most of our pets waited in cozy foster homes, and many an adopter's first look at their future pet was on camera. We maintained a lively stream of news through a variety of channels, assuring the community that we stood ready to help with lost pets, neuters, and a new home for their pet or a new pet for their home.

Adoptions and donations declined initially but recovered as the year progressed, and we secured a Payroll Protection Program loan to help with



expenses. We launched an effort to increase diversity among our humans and created a Building and Facilities committee to tackle projects in our strategic plan.

The 2020 Gala morphed to a virtual "Walk and Wag" plus online auction that worked so well we plan to repeat it.

Tito's Vodka became a new Gala sponsor and a generous provider of hand sanitizer!

We're thankful for the donations we received—bequests, additions to the endowment, and responses to our appeals. Through the tireless work of staff and volunteers, we shepherded hundreds of pets to a better life and emerged in excellent financial shape. We value the lessons of 2020 and look forward to a bright future.

Sincerely, Stacey Weaver



A lifeline for vulnerable cats

Our ongoing initiatives to care for feral cats on the South Shore continued vigorously in 2020. The programs include identifying the location of new colonies, assigning volunteer monitors to provide food and winter shelter, trapping adults for spay/neuter surgeries and medical care, and finally, adoption of any kittens young enough to be socialized. In spring of 2020, we identified a large (and previously unknown) colony of these vulnerable cats in Norwell, MA. We successfully neutered all of the adults and found homes for a total of 22 kittens, nine of which were born to a pregnant mom who lived with us temporarily until the kittens were ready for adoption.

Raising funds in a challenging climate

Each year, SAS must raise every single dollar it spends to help the thousands of pets who will rely on us in that year. In 2020, facing the cancellation of our most important annual fundraisers, we were forced to pivot. In place of our annual gala, we held a successful online silent auction, and we managed to safely hold our annual **Dine Out for Dogs & Cats** event by partnering with local restaurants who offered takeout meals or outdoor seating only.



Shiloh, an SAS alum, was a canine ambassador at August's Dine Out(side) for Dogs & Cats.

A community for animal lovers

When wildfires swept Australia in January, we mobilized our community to sew hundreds of homemade 'joey' pouches for baby kangaroos orphaned in the fires, an effort that was widely publicized in local news.

Our community turns to SAS for all things animal-related. When wildfires decimated wildlife in Australia in January, we organized an effort to help orphaned kangaroos.



OPERATIONS DURING A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC

The year 2020 was a trial by fire, but it also demonstrated our organization's strength and the solid foundation it is built upon: namely, our corps of devoted volunteers and our wide network of extremely generous supporters. Here's a snapshot of how SAS handled the early months of the Covid pandemic and managed to keep shelter operations running smoothly during extremely trying times.

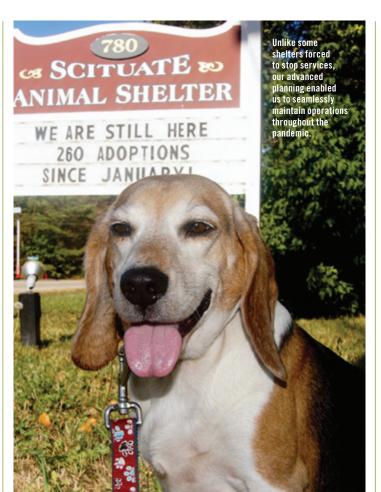
Late January 2020:

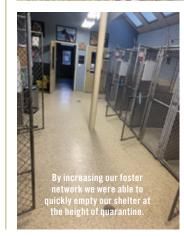
We purchase PPE and emergency supplies to prepare for the possibility of a pandemic. We also put together an emergency plan for our staff and shelter pets, dramatically increasing our network of foster families to enable us to quickly transition to an empty shelter should the need arise.

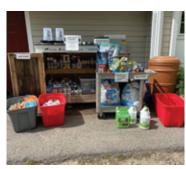
March 2020: We

implement our emergency
plan: emptying the shelter
of all pets who can be safely
moved to foster homes. We
place staff on rotational shifts
to ensure social distancing
within our building, and pivot
to 'appointment only' scheduling for the public. We mandate
masks, social distancing and
stepped-up disinfection.
We also begin contact tracing
protocols for any visitors to
the shelter.
We take in pets from those

who have fallen ill from COVID, and offer temporary housing for pets of those who are ill. Aware that many pet owners are facing increased financial need, we set up an open air, contact-free pet food pantry for those struggling to feed their pets. This pop-up pet food pantry operates 24/7 for close to seven months and provides 30,000+ lbs. of food for pet owners facing need.







We ran a pet food pantry 24/7 for 7 months, helping struggling pet owners feed their pets.

April 2020: Unlike some shelters forced to halt adoptions, the plans we'd put into place in January enable us to seamlessly continue to take in pets, and to adopt them to new homes.

Our social distancing protocols enable us to donate the masks and gowns we'd stockpiled to local area hospitals facing critical PPE shortages. We further mobilize our supporters to sew handmade masks for first responders, donating over 100 cloth masks to help local workers supplement their own PPE equipment.

Aware that many senior pet owners in our region are facing isolation, we launch an initiative called **Phone Pals**, matching our volunteers with senior pet owners for regular chats to check in on the seniors' pets, and to just be a friendly voice at a lonely time.

May 2020: Because we must cancel the fundraisers we rely upon in an ordinary year, we start planning COVID-friendly alternatives, including a scaledback Dine Out for Dogs & Cats, working only with restaurants with outdoor dining, and an online silent auction featuring donated prizes suitable to a pandemic. We put out the call that we are in in need, and our loyal community responds, donating goods for our auction, pet food and supplies for our pantry, and of course, funds to keep our doors open.

PROGRESS In 2020

COVID did not stop us from working towards goals set in our 2017 five-year strategic plan, including goal #1: increasing the quality of life for our shelter pets.

In 2020, we created new free-roaming cat rooms to allow some of our resident cats more freedom and opportunities to socialize. We installed increased soundproofing in our dog kennels, and we built a third enclosed outdoor pen, designed to be long and narrow to better accommodate games of fetch.

We also achieved major progress towards goal #2: increasing youth involvement in our volunteer and shelter programs. While the pandemic forced us to postpone implementation of most of these programs, we were able to set up the framework for comprehensive youth programs, including:

- Book Buddies program allowing kids 5-11 to read to shelter pets
- Internships for teenagers to serve as adoption counselors, or aid with social media and fundraising
- Community service opportunities for teens to earn school credits

30,000 lbs. of pet food donated to feed local cats, dogs & rabbits
3,000 in-need pet owners who received vet care or supplies
337 dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and small mammals adopted
254 loyal volunteers who helped with shelter operations

dogs, including 3 puppies, adopted to loving homes

rabbits, hamsters, ferrets, gerbils & rats adopted

elderly pets adopted into new homes & families

at-risk feral cats spayed/neutered & vaccinated

feral & stray kittens adopted, often in pairs

low cost neuter surgeries for local owners

lost pets reunited with their owners

adorable hedgehog adopted







Adorable Iggy came to us in the spring of 2020. Quickly adopted by an SAS volunteer, he had a very big month in August, first acting as a 'canine ambassador' at our annual Dine Out for Dogs & Cats fundraiser, and then being featured on a huge billboard in NYC Times Square as the 'face' of National Dog Day.



FINANCIAL Data

2020 was a difficult year

for everyone, including SAS, where we faced many challenges, including the

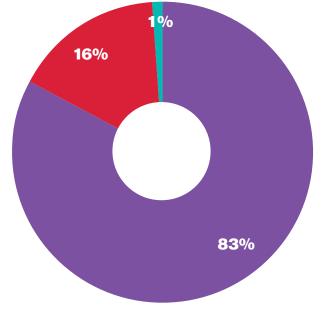
need to reprioritize our efforts. In a typical year, a large portion of our work involves assisting people with pet surrenders and adoptions.

In 2020, the needs of the community changed, which meant we had to quickly adapt. While we still helped people with surrenders and adoptions (337 pets rehomed), we reprioritized our efforts by helping people **keep** their pets during a time of dramatically increased financial hardship. One example: our 24 hour a day, seven days a week food pantry that was open to all with no questions asked. We gave away over 30,000 lbs. to pet owners who needed this support, and likely helped these owners keep their pets out of shelters.

I've witnessed how, by coming together, our staff, our volunteers and our supporters always seem able to accomplish what needs to be done to help people and their beloved pets. 2020 proved this yet again. I am so proud to be a part of SAS.

Maryann Regan,Executive Director, SAS





2020 EXPENSES:

Animal Care and Humane Welfare Programs
Administrative and Staffing
Fundraising and Events

SAS relies 100% on the generousity of our community...and they always come through for us. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL!



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Meghan & Anna Woods

Best efforts have been made to ensure accuracy. Please contact us regarding any inadvertent omissions and accept our apologies.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A YEAR **UNLIKE ANY OTHER**

Offering virtual shelter tours: Teaching the next generation about animal welfare is critical to our mission, but Covid temporarily halted the shelter tours that for years have given Scouts and other student groups a behind-the-scenes look at our shelter, plus insight into issues directly impacting animals in the region where they live. In 2020, unable to safely conduct in-person tours, we pivoted to offer virtual tours to carry on this humane education.

Making diversity a priority

Our Board of Directors met monthly via teleconferencing throughout the pandemic. In June, it voted to introduce a Diversity Committee to guide the organization towards more racial diversity. The goal? To become a more inclusive organization at all levels. including our Board of Directors, our staff and volunteers, and of course, the communities

Senior & special needs pets

we serve.

Each year, we find homes for many senior pets and many pets with medical and/or behavioral needs that make them harder to adopt 2020 was no exception. In fact, an estimated 25% of the animals we adopted for the year were classified as senior or special needs-or both.

> We transferred in, and quickly adopted, 13 cats from an overwhelmed shelter in Southeastern Mass



In 2020, over

25% of our pets were classified

as senior or

by owners who can no longer care for them, but a high percentage of our intakes include stray or lost cats, dogs and domestic rabbits brought to us by animal control officers. We also transfer in animals from other shelters that are overcrowded or struggling and need our help. In December, we took in 13 cats from an overwhelmed shelter in the Fall River area, quickly finding homes for all 13 and freeing up

much-needed space for new pets

to be brought to the transferring

When in-person tours became unsafe, we pivoted to offering virtual tours to Girl and Boy Scouts and other student groups.

The Scituate Animal Shelter ➤ 2020

John Shaughnessy

Karen & Peter Shea

Angela Sheehan

Phil Shockman

Joan & Lester Sheehan

Sadie & Tracy Shepard

Alison & Stafford Short

Shaw's Give Back Where It Counts

Fmme Shaw

Program

SAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



STACEY WEAVER President

Stacey Weaver began volunteering at the Scituate Animal Shelter after retirement from the investment business. A longtime cat owner and current mother of two rescued cats. she was impressed by SAS's mission to help both animals and people, its success in finding homes and the hard work and positive attitude of the staff and volunteers. She worked on the capital campaign to build the new facility that opened in 2009, and currently is a member of the Finance and Audit and Strategic Planning Committees. For the past 27 years she has lived in Cohasset with her cat-loving husband, John Beck.



ROBERT KARLIS

Bob Karlis joined the Board of SAS in fall of 2019. Previously a director for many years with the Abigail Adams Historical Society, he has an MBA from Northeastern and an entrepreneurial background in business with both corporate and small business development. He and his wife are ardent dog lovers and have adopted six dogs over the years, including Finnegan, shown at left.



MARIA KENNEDY Vice President

Maria Kennedy was a long-time supporter of SAS prior to becoming a Canine Care Volunteer in March 2017. She serves on the Gala Commitee. Maria joined the Board of Directors in November 2017. Parents of two grown sons, Maria and her husband live in Cohasset with their rescue dog Maverick. In 2019, Maria served as Chair of SAS's largest fundraiser, the Tails at Twilight Gala.



SHANE HUNTER

Shane is a dog lover and has had numerous pets over the years, with Brady being the latest. He has previously served on the board of CONNECT (a startup incubator in San Diego, CA) and on the advisory board for the Adventure Guides program of the YMCA in Encinitas, CA. A patent lawyer, he is cofounder of Hunter Clark LLC and general counsel of restorVault LLC.



PETER MAKI Treasurer

Peter has been a supporter of the Scituate Animal Shelter for many years, and currently serves as the Chair for the Finance and Audit Committee.

Presently he is the CFO of Rockland-based Polymer Corporation. Peter resides in Scituate with his wife, and two cats adopted from SAS, Nemo and Casper.



LISEY GOOD

Lisey Good's past experience includes serving as Director of Marketing for a global television marketing firm as well as extensive non-profit public relations work. A lifelong animal lover, she previously volunteered with seals. sea lions, dogs and chimpanzees, and began involvement with SAS as a Canine Care Volunteer. At SAS, she chairs the Communications Committee. Lisey and her husband live with two rescue dogs including SAS alum Phoebe, right.



JIMMY KARAS Clerk

Jimmy Karas joined the Board of Directors in 2017. His professional experience includes a role at Boston Private Wealth, as well as serving as a member of the New England Broker Dealer/Investment Adviser Association. At SAS, he is the serves on the Fundraising Committee. Jimmy resides in West Bridgewater with wife and daughter and two rescue dogs, Winston and Roxie.



DIANE ESSLINGER

Diane Esslinger spent over 35 years in law firm administration as Executive Director, and as Director of Human Resources at two Boston law firms. Now retired, she is pursuing her interests in travel. gardening, birding and other outdoor activities. She first volunteered at SAS in the mid-90s and currently serves on the HR & Nominating Committee. Over the years she has been adopted by a number of both sheltered and feral kitties, each of whom has added much to her quality of life.



HEIDI CONDON

Heidi Condon is the principal of HC Design, a Scituate-based design firm founded in 1998 that is one the best known residential design firms in the region. She holds two degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design in both fine arts and architecture. A longtime supporter of SAS, Heidi joined the Board in 2019. She lives with husband Rick and three dogs.



CARLA POULSON

Carla Poulson is currently Vice President of Human Resources for a Bostonbased pharmaceutical company and joined the Board in 2018 after training as a Cat Care Volunteer. She is passionate about animals and their positive impact on our lives and communities and seeks to help SAS continue to educate the community about issues relative to animal welfare. Carla lives in Hingham, MA with her husband, two children, a labradoodle and rescue cat Magnolia, adopted from SAS.



MICHELLE COX

Michelle Cox began volunteering with SAS as a dog walker in 2014. and she and her partner Kerrie have been very strong supporters since that time. Michelle is a realtor with Jack Conway & Company in Hingham, and her career in real estate takes her all over the South Shore. Michelle and Kerrie lived in Hingham for many years but recently relocated to Hull. They have three rescue dogs.



BOB RYAN

Bob Ryan is one of the best-known sports writers in America. He worked for The Boston Globe for 40+ years, and is the current Board Chairman of the **National Sportscasters** and Sportswriters Association. Bob previously served as president of the United States Basketball Writers Association and the NBA Writers Association. A longtime animal lover, his interest in the Shelter began with his wife's volunteer efforts there, joining the Board in 2015. He serves on the Communications Committee.

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ScituateAnimalShelter.org