

A red van is the central focus, featuring large white text that reads "Great Dogs From Our Great City!". The van is decorated with several logos, including the "FRIENDS OF CITY DOGS CLEVELAND" logo, a "CITY OF CLEVELAND ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL" logo, and a small cartoon dog with a speech bubble saying "I'm a CITY DOG too!". A dog mascot, a brown and tan dog with a red heart on its chest, stands in front of the van. The background shows trees and a clear blue sky.

FRIENDS OF CITY DOGS CLEVELAND

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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A WORD FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025 gave us many reasons to celebrate, marking the 10th anniversary of CITY DOGS Cleveland and the 5th anniversary of Friends of CITY DOGS Cleveland (FOCDC). These milestones are a testament to the dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment of everyone who has helped both organizations grow and thrive. We are proud to celebrate all that we've accomplished together.

At the same time, animal welfare organizations across the country continue to face significant challenges, and Cleveland is no exception. Each year, more dogs arrive at Cleveland Animal Care and Control (CACC), placing increased strain on an already overcrowded kennel. Thanks to your steadfast support, FOCDC has continued to provide essential medical care, enrichment, and adoption assistance to the dogs in CACC's care, helping them on their journey to a brighter future.

Whether you made a financial contribution, donated much-needed supplies, or gave your time as a volunteer, your generosity has made a meaningful difference. We are continually inspired by the compassion of our community. Supporters like you—who believe every dog deserves a second chance—make our work possible. In the pages that follow, you'll see the incredible impact your support has had on the CITY DOGS we all love so dearly.

As we look ahead to 2026, we know new challenges await. FOCDC remains committed to expanding and strengthening the programs that support the dogs at the Cleveland Kennel. Your continued partnership is essential to this lifesaving work, and we are deeply grateful to have you by our side. Together, we can give even more dogs the opportunity to find the loving homes they deserve.

For the Love of CITY DOGS Cleveland,
The Board of Directors

Michelle DeBock	President
Robert Heffner	Treasurer
Stephanie Halko-Dudley	Secretary
Valerie Gesting	Finance
Beth Heffner	Fundraising/Events
Shelby Brooks	Marketing/Merchandising





ABOUT US

Friends of CITY DOGS Cleveland is a 501 (c)(3), volunteer run organization established in April 2020 with the mission of providing the animals taken in by Cleveland Animal Care and Control (CACC) with medical care and enrichment during their time at the kennel, preparing them for adoption into loving homes, and creating opportunities for potential adopters to get to know them as the great family members they were meant to be. FOCDC is CACC's primary fundraising partner.

MISSION

To provide financial assistance for the animals at Cleveland Animal Care and Control, which includes daily enrichment opportunities, medical care and supporting the CITY DOGS adoption and volunteer programs.

VISION

Enriching, improving and advocating for the lives of Cleveland's homeless dogs as they navigate their journey to a better life.



REVIEW

Medical

Medical care continues to account for the largest portion of FOCDC's annual spending, totaling \$236,000 in 2025. A primary part of FOCDC's support for CACC is covering medical expenses not funded by the City of Cleveland. This includes additional spay and neuter surgeries, examinations for injuries and illnesses, medications and surgical treatments, heartworm, flea, and tick preventatives, medical supplies, rescue medical sponsorships, and other essential veterinary care.

These investments ensure that dogs receive the treatment they need to recover, remain healthy, and have the best possible chance of finding a loving home.

Adoption and Volunteer

FOCDC proudly supports the adoption, volunteer, and foster programs that help dogs thrive while they wait for their forever homes. Your generosity helps provide volunteers with the equipment they need to safely care for and enrich the lives of adoptable dogs at CACC.

Every adopted dog goes home with a "goodie bag" made possible through donor support. These bags include toys, treats, and helpful resources for adopters, such as guidance on introducing a new dog to the home and access to training information to help set both dogs and families up for success.

FOCDC also supports the foster program by providing food, supplies, and other essential resources for dogs temporarily cared for in volunteer homes. Foster care not only gives dogs a more comfortable environment while they await adoption, but also helps free up much-needed kennel space, allowing CACC to care for more dogs in need.



Total Revenue: \$372,000

The generosity of our supporters remains the foundation of FOCDC's work. Donations are our primary source of funding, making it possible to provide lifesaving medical care, enrichment, adoption support, and other essential programs for the dogs at CACC.

Our community supports our mission in many ways. Financial contributions are made through our website, social media fundraisers, Venmo, and year-round fundraising events. In addition to monetary gifts, we are grateful for the many in-kind donations of goods and services that help meet the daily needs of the dogs in our care and strengthen our ability to serve them. Every contribution — whether financial, material, or through community engagement — helps give more dogs the opportunity for a healthier future and a loving home.

- Donations: \$317,000 (85%)
- Fundraising/Gaming: \$41,000 (11%)
- Net merchandise: \$14,000 (4%)

Total Expenses: \$350,000

- Total medical: \$236,000 (67%)
- Other program expenses: \$56,000 (15%)
- Fundraising/Gaming: \$31,000 (9%)
- Administrative costs: \$27,000 (9%)

Other Program Expenses: \$56,000

- Adoption/Volunteer Expense: \$27,000 (48%)
- Foster Supplies & Training: \$10,000 (18%)
- Enrichment: \$9,000 (16%)
- Dog Training: \$7,000 (13%)
- Education: \$3,000 (5%)



Medical Expenses: \$236,000

Medical expenses include spay and neuter surgeries, examinations for injuries and illnesses, medications and surgical treatments, heartworm, flea, and tick preventatives, medical supplies, health certificates, rescue medical sponsorships, and other essential veterinary care.

- Heartworm Preventatives: \$62,000 (over 3,000 doses)
- Rescue Medical Sponsorship: \$62,000 (57 dogs)
- General Medical: \$52,000
- Veterinary Supplies: \$36,000
- Foster Medical: \$13,000
- Spay/Neuter Surgery: \$7,000 (19 dogs)
- Heartworm Treatment: \$3,000 (14 dogs)
- Medical Transports: \$1,000



RESCUE MEDICAL SPONSORSHIP

This program helps offset the cost of transferring dogs with significant medical needs to rescue partners, reducing the financial burden of their care. By providing this support, FOCDL encourages rescue organizations to welcome dogs requiring extensive medical treatment, giving them a greater opportunity to receive the specialized care they need and find loving homes.

Thank you, Rescue partners!

59 dogs pulled by 12 rescue organizations in 2025

- Fido's Companion Rescue
- Forget Me Not Animal Rescue
- Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit
- Friendship Animal Protective League
- Humane Society of Erie County
- Mercy's Door Pet Rescue
- Mutts in a Rut
- Ohio American Eskimo Rescue
- Portage Animal Protective League
- Tails From the City
- The Red Barn Goofy Newfy Rescue
- Toby's Critter Cove Rescue

OTHER PROGRAM EXPENSES

Adoption & Kennel Supplies: \$27,000

In 2025, FOCDC purchased more than 1,000 martingale collars, chain and clip leashes for volunteer use, volunteer and staff safety equipment, a cuddle couch for the adoption consultation room, adoption bags and folders, 15 calming kennel curtains, wet dog food for administering medications, and a variety of other essential kennel supplies. These investments helped improve the safety, comfort, and well-being of the dogs while supporting the volunteers and staff who work with them each day.

Foster Supplies & Training: \$10,000

In 2025, FOCDC provided foster supplies including food, treats, toys, crates, crate pads and pans, holiday goodie bags, flyers, and yard signs to help promote dogs in foster care. Training was also provided to support foster caregivers and set foster dogs up for success in their temporary homes.





TRANSPORT

FOCDC operates “Clifford,” the signature red transport van used to take dogs to partner rescues, medical appointments, community events, hikes, and other outings. Easily recognized along the highways of Northeast Ohio and beyond, Clifford serves as a rolling ambassador for both CITY DOGS Cleveland and FOCDC.

In 2025, Clifford transported 126 dogs to rescue organizations across 31 trips, covering more than 5,000 miles. In addition, 617 dogs were taken to medical appointments over 75 trips, totaling more than 6,800 miles. These transports play a vital role in expanding opportunities for dogs in need while ensuring they receive necessary care and placement support.

TRAINING

FOCDC strives to set dogs up for success in their forever homes by sponsoring positive reinforcement training for foster dogs and recently adopted dogs. Volunteers also attend training sessions alongside foster dogs, gaining skills and experience that can be applied to any dog in the kennel.

In 2025, five kennel dogs and volunteers participated in training sessions, along with 21 recently adopted dogs and their adopters, and eight foster dogs with their volunteer foster caregivers.



FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

Fundraising and community events are essential to supporting CITY DOGS Cleveland and CACC. These efforts enable FOCDL to raise critical funds, advocate for the dogs in our care, and increase awareness throughout the community.

Your participation and generosity made 2025 a tremendous success. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support shown for the dogs we serve, and we remain inspired by the compassion of our community.

Concessions at Cleveland Browns Stadium: \$37,000

CITY DOGS Run Cleveland 5k: \$31,000

Holiday Cheer event: \$25,000

CITY DOGS calendar photo contest: \$22,000

Nelson Golf Classic: \$6,000

Stranci Tattoo fundraiser: \$5,700



CITY DOGS Run Cleveland 5k

The Acorn Project
DiGeronimo Companies
Cold Nose Companions
Doggie Style Dog Care
Style Mutt
The Fairmount Cocktail Bar

Christine Berg
Shop Dog Studio
City Dog Jack
The Villa Family
The Glassburn Family

Holiday Cheer

The Acorn Project
Robyn White Photography
The Ulrich Family
The Arbogast Family
The Villa Family
The Wells Family

The Dock Family
The Maloney- Diamond Family
The Parker Family
The Schroeder Family
The Zickes Family

CAGE SPONSORS

Platinum Collar

Dedicated to the memory of Millie and Joon

Remembering Stella, Titan, Tori and all the dogs unfairly stigmatized by BSL.

For CITY DOG Mabel (fka Zia) - who is living her best life!

For Norton

In honor of Justin Fleming and his CITY DOG Benjen

In loving memory of Cary Root - Best Dog Dad Ever! With love from your family and friends

In loving memory of Deborah Barchak Von Alt ~
Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened!

Products Chemical Company, LLC Families ~
Serving Cleveland since 1942!



CAGE SPONSORS

Gold Collar

From the team at Make & Model Marketing and Charlie the office dog.

In honor of CITY DOG Jack - Timy Sullivan

In honor of CITY DOG Scout - Dan & Val Gesting

In honor of Echo (fka Sprout) - now living his best life with us! - Phil & Teal

In loving memory of Archie J. Menko

In memory of Cruiser, our 2017 CITY DOG. We'll miss your forever.
Reese, Jason & Mike

In memory of Jeffrey Grammes

Stay Dog Daycare



CAGE SPONSORS

Silver Collar

Andrew & Theresa Murgola

Cleveland Curiosities

Double Dog Coffee Roasters

In memory of Sherry Fedak-LSVAMC Acute Medicine Service

In memory of my beloved CITY DOGS Shirley

In memeory of our best friend, Loa Brown the sweetest German Shepherd

Luca's Pet Nutrition Center

Moose's Mission

Bronze Collar

In honor of Karen Yeftich and Nelly

In loving memory of Enzo, from Winter Trimacco

In loving memory of Lynx: ambassador, foster brother, and best friend



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Treasurer

Stephanie Halko-Dudley
Secretary

Shelby Brooks
Director of Marketing

Val Gesting
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Director of Events &
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