

2025 HIGHLIGHTS REPORT



**ANIMALS
PEOPLE
COMMUNITY**

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

2025 was a fabulous year for Lucky Dog Animal Rescue. We had the best year of adoptions in our Rescue's history since the adoption explosion brought on by the pandemic in 2020. **In 2025, 3,175 Lucky Dogs and Cats found their forever homes.**

While rescuing animals from over-crowded and under-resourced shelters to find them loving forever homes remains core to our mission and our focus, 2025 shows us how much more lifesaving we can do as an organization.

In order to keep our community pet's safe, we hosted 4 free vaccine and microchip clinics at our South Carolina Rescue Campus and provided 458 free vaccines at a clinic with our partners in Puerto Rico. In order to stop the problem of pet overpopulation at its source, we solidified our low-cost spay/neuter program, offering one day of low cost surgeries to the public every other week. In addition, we offered low cost surgeries to three local shelters to make sure they can get their own pets adopted and into loving homes.

In October of 2025, we broke ground on our new, dedicated cat building at the Rescue Campus and we secured a significant gift for our second dog kennel – enough to formally start the design process.

Lucky Dog partnered with Mars Incorporated and the Pedigree Foundation to bring 12 animal welfare professionals on a 10-day trip to Puerto Rico, spending time volunteering with each of our shelter partners. We also took our regular annual trip with Lucky Dog volunteers to the island in June, saving



23 dogs and puppies from the streets, including 18 puppies saved from a fallen down building/garbage pile.

Our final heartworm study dog – #168 – was enrolled in our heartworm study which will wrap up in early 2026. This study promises to change the way shelters across the United States treat their heartworm positive dogs, potentially saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

This is what Lucky Dog is all about. We are not just rescuing animals and finding them homes. We are helping pet owners care for their dogs and cats responsibly. We are bringing resources to areas of the country that need them. And, we are moving the needle of shelter medicine in ways that will impact the entire nation.

Thank you for making this extraordinary work possible.

2025 Board of Directors

Mirah Horowitz

Catherine Philips

Lauren Bird Horowitz

Suzy Brown

Sylvia Kasser

Dr. Mathieu Glassman

Sarah Adams

2025 NORTHERN VIRGINIA IMPACT

In 2025, we made a huge difference for people and animals in our community. Here are a few of our significant achievements:



3,031

LUCKY DOGS & CATS
WERE ADOPTED INTO
LOVING FOREVER HOMES



ANIMALS WERE SAVED
FROM MORE THAN

36 SHELTERS

ACROSS

**12 US STATES &
TERRITORIES &
1 COUNTRY**



102

TRANSPORTS WERE
CONDUCTED TO SAVE

3,152

LUCKY DOGS & CATS



2,407

VOLUNTEERS JOINED THE
LUCKY DOG FAMILY



1,230

NEW FOSTER FAMILIES
GENEROUSLY HOUSED ANIMALS
ON THEIR WAY TO ADOPTION



152

ADOPTION EVENTS WERE
SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED
ACROSS THE DC METRO AREA

2025 SOUTH CAROLINA CAMPUS IMPACT

In 2025, we achieved great things on behalf of the people and animals across the rural south via our South Carolina Rescue Campus.

100+ 

LUCKY DOGS WERE TREATED FOR HEARTWORM DISEASE

ENROLLED & TREATED FINAL DOG (# 168) IN HEARTWORM STUDY



72 ANIMALS

WITH EXTRAORDINARY MEDICAL CONDITIONS WERE SUPPORTED



43

CATS WERE TREATED FOR RINGWORM

131



DENTAL CLEANINGS & OTHER SURGERIES WERE CONDUCTED



2,408

ANIMALS WERE SPAYED OR NEUTERED



96

X-RAYS WERE TAKEN

4

LOW COST VACCINE & MICROCHIP CLINICS WERE RUN ADMINISTERING



1,741 VACCINES & 624 MICROCHIPS

TO COMMUNITY ANIMALS

HOUSED

2,493 DOGS

AND

1,384 CATS



BROKE GROUND ON NEW CAT BUILDING ON SC CAMPUS



Added

21 NEW FOSTERS

AND

675 NEW VOLUNTEERS

TO THE LUCKY DOG FAMILY



BEGAN FORMAL PLANNING FOR 2ND DOG KENNEL



PUERTO RICO MARS PARTNERSHIP

Last October, Lucky Dog hosted a Mars Ambassador Project, bringing 12 Mars Inc. employees from across the globe to volunteer in Puerto Rico.

Through this partnership, Lucky Dog was awarded \$10,000 from the Pedigree Foundation to support various projects at 5 different rescues and shelters on the island – as well as sponsor a community vaccine clinic with Love for Satos.

During the 10-day trip, volunteers built agility equipment, revitalized shelter spaces – including a horse barn – cared for animals, and supported daily operations – strengthening the capacity of local partners and helping save lives.

This collaboration expanded visibility and resources for seven Puerto Rico-based organizations, underscoring both the challenges they face and the power of partnership in creating lasting change. “We are all so proud that Lucky Dog can support other organizations in this way – shining a light not only on our own work, but on the incredible efforts of so many groups fighting the good fight every day.”

– Mirah Horowitz, CEO & Founder, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue



Lucky Dog ran **1** low cost vaccine and microchip clinic in Puerto Rico and administered **458** vaccines



LUCKY DOG VOLUNTEERS

KASONDRA BOMBERGER

I took some time off work and was looking for something meaningful to fill it with. At the same time, my sister owns a small business in Georgetown and was looking to donate to a DC animal rescue monthly through her business. Together we went on a search, and we both found Lucky Dog! On top of all of this, my husband and I had recently lost our soul dog, Lucy. I missed having a dog in my life, but I was not ready to adopt one yet. So what better way to bring a dog back into my life than by fostering? So the journey began for me to get my first foster with Lucky Dog!

I mainly have been a full-time foster with Lucky Dog. This means that I foster the dog or cat until they are adopted! I have so far full-time fostered 13 animals total! 10 dogs and 3 cats, who have all found loving forever homes. This also entails taking my foster animal to most Lucky Dog adoption events that are held throughout the DMV every Sunday. I have also done some temporary fostering for other Lucky Dog fosters who needed someone to watch their foster when they were out of town (shoutout to Clovis!). I have done transport for fosters who needed some help moving their foster. I have transported other foster animals to events if the current foster could not make it. I have come to events and handled animals when I did not have a foster of my own. And right now, I also help brand and crop photos from fosters to put on their Lucky Dog Bio page on the website! Oh, I also helped be a captain for a donation box for the holiday drive!

What keeps me coming back to Lucky Dog is the animals and the people! It is the most rewarding thing to help these animals on their journey to their forever family, and I love watching them grow and become who they are meant to be during the time they are with me. It is SO fulfilling! And yes, I get attached to every single one of them! In saying that though, the emails that I receive



from Lucky Dog on a daily basis show me ALL of the other animals that still need my help. That is a huge motivator to get my current foster adopted and to get ready to bring on the next one! And the people! I have such a great group of fellow fosters/volunteers that I have come to know over the course of this past year. I truly feel like this community has each other's back! (Shoutout to the blue hat crew and my lovely Dog Day Out Volunteers!) I truly look forward to seeing the other fosters, volunteers, and animals that are new to the DMV each and every week! It is such a highlight. On top of that, the Lucky Dog Team is insanely awesome and dedicated to what they all do. They are so responsive to any questions/concerns, and I feel like I can tell them anything about a foster and have help working through it.

Lucky Dog is my sense of community. It means the world to me to know that there are other individuals out there who are so passionate and dedicated to animal welfare. It is so inspiring to see and be around every week. It gives me hope for the future of animal welfare, especially with all Lucky Dog is doing down at its South Carolina campus. We need more Lucky Dog in the world!



PEGGY McLENIGAN

I first became familiar with Lucky Dog when I adopted my dog Addie in 2014. I know many people feel that their pet is the best when compared to others, but honestly, none even come close to Addie (totally objective viewpoint). She was absolutely the sweetest girl ever and when she passed away in 2021 the void I felt was immense. While not quite ready to adopt again, I started volunteering at the adoption events on weekends as a handler, and occasionally transported animals to and from events. I was very impressed with the rescue, both in its mission to save as many needy animals as possible as well as the organization of the rescue itself.

When I first started volunteering, I mostly handled dogs who were looking for their forever home. I can't say exactly how it transpired but eventually I found myself with the puppies, and sometimes older dogs as well, who needed to be crated until receiving their required shots. As I became familiar with the set up of that particular section, I found I was spending most Sundays serving as 'Puppy Protector.' What this involves is helping sanitize the mats, crates and bowls before the pups arrive, and ensuring the handlers monitoring the crates are familiar with Lucky Dog rules regarding visitor interactions with the puppies.

The happiest events are ones where I can dismantle the crates before the event is over because the pup or puppies in that crate have been adopted!!

Since I started volunteering at adoption events, I expanded my volunteer efforts to include fostering. After fostering only 2 dogs, I ended up as a 'foster fail' on my 3rd attempt. Huck is indeed a very lucky dog! His particular quirks have put my fostering efforts on hold for now but I look forward to the day I can resume being a foster volunteer. For now, I am just basking in the love that Huck has for me. I could be gone for 5 minutes, 5 hours or 5 days, but every time I come home, I am greeted with such enthusiasm and delight it never fails to warm my heart.

The work that Lucky Dog does is so important as well as inspiring. It is amazing to me to see all the familiar faces of volunteers who come week after week, regardless of weather, to help make a difference in the lives of these animals. It's such an interesting mix of people, some of whom I am now proud to call friends. Now that I am in my 70's, I love having the adoption events to look forward to every Sunday. It gives me a sense of purpose, I get to meet up with some amazing people, and last but not least, play a small part in helping these beautiful creatures find a place they can call home. We all have choices on how we can spend our free time, that is fun, meaningful, and what we are able to do. For me, for now, spending my Sunday afternoons volunteering at the adoption events checks all the boxes. What more could I ask for?



LUCKY DOG VOLUNTEERS

KENNY GIERL

Lucky Dog has become far more than a place to volunteer. It has been a true source of connection, purpose, and renewal. After moving to Washington, DC, from Pittsburgh, volunteering offered a meaningful way to put down roots in a new city, just as it had during earlier moves. What started as a simple desire to meet people and give back quickly turned into a deep commitment after a few early conversations that made it clear Lucky Dog was something special.

Serving as an events coordinator means helping bring adoption events to life, from setup to breakdown, but more importantly creating an environment where volunteer handlers feel supported, valued, and excited to be there. When volunteers are happy, the dogs shine, and that directly impacts their chances of finding homes. What keeps the commitment strong is the people and the dogs. There is nothing quite like watching a dog's story unfold from transport to adoption and cheering them on every step of the way.

Rescue work can be emotionally challenging, filled with both joy and heartbreak, but it also teaches resilience and hope. Being part of the Lucky Dog community provides constant reminders that even on hard days, something better can be right around the corner. At its core, Lucky Dog is a place to recharge the soul, to care deeply for something beyond oneself, and to do so alongside people who genuinely support one another and share the same compassion.



ADOPTION STORIES

BLAIR

I first saw Blair on the cat foster needs list months before she was able to make the transport up. She caught my eye because she had an adorable plastic firefighter helmet on and it turned out she was recovering from burns from her over-eagerness to follow her firefighter humans into a burning building. She was held back to heal more but two months later she made the transport and I got the opportunity to foster her. I fell in love instantly - she was so cute and little and she had the funniest sit as a result of her healing foot. As I fostered her for two months she had lots of interest as everyone loved her backstory, but she still hadn't found her forever home. By August I realized that there was no way I could give her up and reached out to adopt her.

Blair has made all my days better. She is sassy yet sweet and I love her quirky gait and sit. Despite being the smallest in the house, she is the Queen Bee. She has mothered many other foster cats helping them relax and come out of their own shells. Her leg is healing so well and she continues to win over every vet that has been great in helping her get stronger. I am so thankful she was brought to Lucky Dog so that she could make her way to me.

Monica Obispado - July 2025



PERIAN

In 16+ years as a volunteer with Lucky Dog, I've fostered over 100 dogs—mostly puppies. I knew the moment I picked up Blue (fka Perian) from transport that he would be my first foster fail in 13 years. I was right.

Born the runt with serious health challenges, Blue is here today thanks to the incredible care, donations, and love from the South Carolina Rescue Campus—especially Director of Operations Stephanie Moore, who sent him to DC with immense love and a very full heart.

Small in size, incredibly clever, enormous in personality, Blue is never shy about sharing his opinions (loudly). He empties the toy bin daily to ensure maximum options, dislikes ice and snow with great conviction, and prefers zoomies indoors until warm weather returns.

Blue adores dogs and people alike. He thrived in puppy socialization and is enrolled in adolescent manners, wrestles with his much older Lucky Dog brother Finn each morning, then snuggles up for naps. He takes his job as “work-from-home assistant” very seriously and occasionally jumps onto his mom's lap to join Zoom calls as a silent observer.

Next on Blue's agenda: earning his Canine Good Citizen certificate—and one day becoming a service dog to help his mom.

Joanna Choi - October 2025

ADOPTION STORIES

Lady

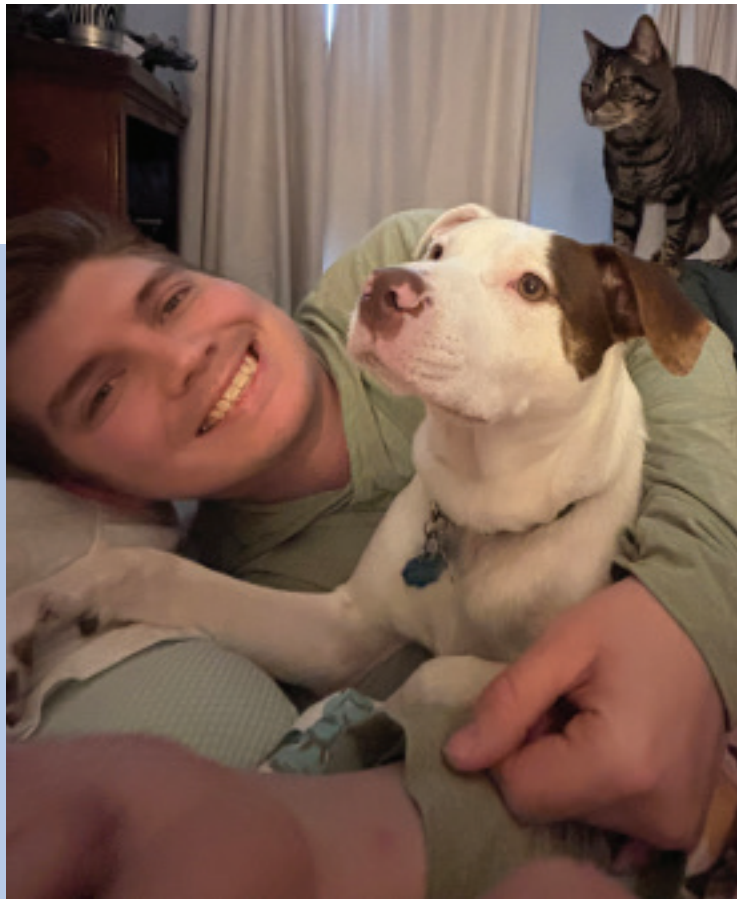
The last few months with Ember have been truly wonderful. She has fully bonded with our family and settled into her place with so much love and confidence. One of her favorite discoveries has been her grandma, my mother, who is now one of her favorite people!

When my mom stayed with us for three weeks over the holidays, Ember went on countless urban hiking adventures. Together, they walked all around Arlington for hours at a time, exploring the neighborhood and soaking in the sights.

Ember has also developed some very strong opinions about wildlife. Squirrels, in particular, drive her absolutely wild, spotting one outside sends her into instant excitement. Birds, on the other hand, still leave her a little unimpressed.

More than anything, Ember truly believes she is one of the kids. She hangs out in their rooms, follows them everywhere, and when the kids line up begging for something, she sits right beside them, gazing up at me with the most convincing puppy eyes. She's not just part of the family, she knows she belongs and the amount of joy she has brought into our home is immeasurable!

Amelia Bonilla - September 2025



Rousch

We adopted Ramen Noodle in May of 2025 in the midst of a difficult year for our family. From day one, Ramen Noodle, who is a parvo survivor, has brought immeasurable joy and love to our home.

He is so sweet and playful. He even gets along with our 13 year old tomcat, S'more. Coming home to my boys is the highlight of my day.

We are so grateful to Lucky Dog for rescuing Ramen Noodle and his siblings and caring for him until we adopted him.

April Kasper - May 2025