



**Lucky Dog**  
**Animal Rescue**

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

# LUCKY DOG'S COVID 19-PIVOT: CREATING OPPORTUNITY FROM UNCERTAINTY



During a difficult year of disruption and uncertainty, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue stepped up -- and adapted -- in ways we never before imagined having to, learning as we went, so we could continue rescuing animals while also keeping people safe.

At first, we weren't even sure we could continue operating. Our pre-COVID-19 operating model was built on large in-person adoption events, transports, and fundraisers.

How could we function -- connect with adopters, volunteers and supporters -- without in-person events? How would the economic toll of fighting the pandemic impact our ability to keep saving lives? We could have shied away from the challenge, shut our doors, and stood by.

But we didn't. Instead, we quickly updated our safety protocols, restructured every aspect of our operations, and kept ourselves focused on our primary mission: saving dogs and cats. Thanks to the tireless efforts and dedication of our staff and volunteers, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue didn't just rise to the occasion, we shattered every life-saving record in the organization's history. In 2020, we saved the lives of 3,500 animals -- the most in our history since our founding in 2009.



In our new normal, almost every step of Lucky Dog Animal Rescue's adoption process went virtual in order to accommodate public health and safety guidelines. Adoption questionnaires, counselling interviews, home visits, contracts and payments moved online. Virtual adoption events were broadcast live on Facebook and meet and greets with adopters occurred via FaceTime. Transports also looked different during the pandemic. Where a large crowd used to greet animals as they were unloaded, in 2020 fosters and adopters drove up to the transport where animals were loaded into their cars, all to minimize person-to-person contact and protect our adopters and volunteers.

Despite the cancellation of in-person fundraisers, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue's creative virtual events not only raised life-saving funds but also engaged supporters from across the country.

Our annual Casino Night fundraiser transformed into Lucky Dog LIVE!, a virtual variety show that engaged supporters from the comfort of their own homes and raised over \$70,000, helping to save over 350 homeless dogs and cats.

Other virtual events included a holiday fair, a donation drive, a pet CPR class, bingo, trivia, a pet photography class, and an interactive whiskey tasting class. These events, along with a \$12,500 operations grant from Petco and COVID-19 relief grants from the South Fork Foundation and Pedigree Foundation, ensured Lucky Dog could continue to provide medical care and cover shelter and transport costs for deserving animals.

As the world of in-person interactions, power lunches, and 9-5 workdays ground to a halt in the DC area, the one silver lining for Lucky Dog was the community's increased interest in adopting, fostering, and volunteering. Since the number of Lucky Dogs and Cats we save is directly dependent on our foster team, we ramped up our foster screening team and welcomed 899 new fosters in 2020 (as well as 1,270 new volunteers overall). This, combined with ramping up our pre-approval process, allowed us to onboard over twenty new shelter partners and ultimately to accommodate an overall animal intake that doubled from last year's.

Whether fostering, volunteering, or adopting, we are so proud to be able to bring people comfort and a sense of purpose during 2020 and look forward to making an even bigger impact in our community in 2021.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIRAH HOROWITZ



### WHAT IS IT THAT PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY ABOUT THE BEST LAID PLANS?

2020 was a year of change and adjustment. Of trial and error. Of challenging our assumptions and moving beyond our comfort zone. Despite all the obstacles we had to overcome -- or perhaps because of them -- 2020 was a year that truly showed what Lucky Dog is all about.

When Lucky Dog was founded in 2009, we challenged the conventional wisdom of the rescue world. We put as much emphasis on making a good match for potential adopters as we did on getting animals out of shelters. We invited adopters to submit questionnaires even without a particular dog in mind, and, if they missed out on the one they wanted, we worked to find them an even better match. We created protocols to ensure the health and safety of our puppies, even if it meant keeping those puppies in our care longer than other rescues would. We set a high bar for customer service, knowing that our volunteers could and would rise to the challenge.

The thing to know about Lucky Dog is that we're never done improving. Never fully satisfied with where we are. We continually try to become more effective, more efficient, and, most importantly, to save more lives! So, throughout the 11 years leading up to 2020, we kept trying to get better at what we do: save lives of the 4-legged and 2-legged alike.

Our ethos of continual experimentation and improvement had led us to create and implement a new online application system that could interact with our custom-built database. We never imagined when we rolled out "LDEFS" in January of 2020 that it would become the linchpin of our operations in three short months. We had no inkling that we'd receive more than 100 applications a day as stay at home orders led people across the country to seek comfort during the crisis. We could never fathom having to take the beginnings of an online application system and transform them into an almost entirely virtual adoption process.

2020 was a stark reminder of why innovation and flexibility, creativity and imagination are so important to our work. Of how a dedicated volunteer force can move mountains. Of the ways that having a steadfast plan will pave the way.

Yes, we entered 2020 with some truly amazing plans to save more than 2,000 animals, grow our volunteer base, and expand our life-saving reach. We threw some of those plans out the window in March. More in April, and chucked the rest over the summer. Along the way, we redrafted and reimagined. And, as a result, we blew every goal out of the water, saving 3,500 lives in the hardest year of rescue Lucky Dog has ever seen.

We have HUGE plans for 2021. But, the most important: we are ready for anything. We can't wait to see how it all turns out!

Mirah A. Horowitz  
Founder and Executive Director



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## ON THE COVER

Lucky Dog Animal Rescue adopted dogs and cats from 2020

Photo credits:  
Lucky Dog Animal Rescue

Layout & Design:  
Momme Design

# WHO WE ARE

## LUCKY DOG ANIMAL RESCUE

Lucky Dog Animal Rescue is a volunteer-powered, foster-based nonprofit operating in the DC Metro Area and dedicated to rescuing homeless, neglected, and abandoned animals from certain euthanasia and finding them loving forever homes. We educate the community and all pet parents on responsible pet parenting, including the importance of spay/neuter, obedience training, and good nutrition.



### Lucky Dog Animal Rescue Board of Directors:

Karen Whitt  
Marcia Marsh  
Maureen Atkins Vollmer  
Michael Horowitz  
Mirah Horowitz  
Noel Samuel  
Suzy Brown

### Lucky Dog Animal Rescue Advisory Board:

Brittany Carter  
Catherine Verstandig  
Heather Zichal  
Joan Mayer  
Karen Skanderson  
Lucia Wind  
Meaghan Ropski  
Nancy Logan  
Ryan Pratzel  
Stacey Bradford  
Sheila Raebal  
Trevor Johnson



# 2020 AT A GLANCE

What a year 2020 was! This year, Lucky Dog pivoted rapidly to continue our lifesaving mission while addressing the new national and local safety needs and crossed the milestone of saving more than 19,000 lives since our founding. We launched new partnerships with organizations like the South Fork Foundation, and we strengthened our commitment to our shelter partners in Florence, South Carolina, Laredo, Texas, Puerto Rico and beyond. We hosted many virtual adoption and fundraising events and our professionally produced Lucky Dog LIVE! Presented by Creative Liquid. We onboarded 21 new shelter partners, hundreds of new fosters and volunteers and, through it all, Lucky Dog saved the lives of 3,500 Dogs & Cats.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020:

- Celebrated our 11th years of saving lives, 19,000 lives saved since our founding
- Switched to a nearly entirely virtual-based operating model.
- Worked with Grant and Catherine Verstandig to charter a plane to fly rescued animals from Puerto Rico to the DC area when regular commercial flights had ceased.
- Hosted virtual adoption events weekly March through December.
- Featured in over 50 media stories and appearances throughout the DC DMV and beyond.
- Rescued and treated 139 Heartworm-positive dogs.
- Treated over 200 critical care cases.
- Conducted 212 transports from as far away as Puerto Rico, Mississippi, Texas, Florida and Hawaii, and as close as Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.
- Onboarded 21 new shelter partners for a total of 39 shelter partners for 2020.
- Rescued 3,500 animals in 2020 – of which 1,371 were Lucky Dogs, 329 were Lucky Cats, 923 were Lucky Puppies, and 957 were Lucky Kittens.
- Welcomed many new foster families. By end of 2020, we had 241 Cat Fosters and 1485 Dog Fosters.
- Switched from in-person to virtual fundraising events.
- Participated in the World Bank Community Connections Campaign as well as the Combined Federal Campaign.
- Accepted into the 2020-2021 Catalogue for Philanthropy, Greater Washington's only locally focused guide to giving and volunteering.
- Furthered our Legacy of Love planned giving program.



- Grant & Catherine Verstandig generously matched Giving Tuesday NOW and our End of Year fundraising.
- Raised over \$450,000 in May and December giving campaigns.
- Received Guidestar's Platinum Seal of Transparency for the second consecutive year – the highest nonprofit rating offered.
- Received 100 out of a 100 rating for Charity Navigator -- Your Guide to Intelligent Giving
- Selected as a grant recipient of the South Fork Foundation.
- Selected as a grant recipient by PetSmart Charities to support our increased adoption and transport programming.
- Awarded Most Adoptions and Best Video during the National Adoption Challenge sponsored by Best Friends Animal Society.
- Awarded 2nd place for "Best Charity Event" for Casino Night 2019 for Best of DC 2020.
- Awarded 3rd place for "Best Place to Volunteer" for Best of DC 2020.

# OUR PROGRAMS

## ADOPTION PROGRAM

Lucky Dog's primary purpose is to find qualified adoptive homes for the homeless and abandoned dogs and cats we rescue. We train adoption coordinators to carefully screen adoptive applicants to be sure that our dogs do not end up back in shelters – or worse. The adoption process includes the completion of an application, an in-depth interview with an adoption coordinator, a landlord check (if applicable), a vet check to ensure all current and previous pets were spayed/neutered and well cared for (if applicable), and a home visit. We also provide support to adopters after adoption takes place.



## ADOPTION MATCHMAKING

Volunteer Adoption Coordinators work with individual adopters to find the right animal for their family, lifestyle and preferences. This provides a more successful outcome for the dog. This innovative program was pioneered by Lucky Dog in 2020.

## FOSTER PROGRAM

Because we do not have a kennel, Lucky Dog is dependent on volunteers in the DC metro area to house and care for our dogs and cats while they await adoption. These foster homes are the backbone of our organization. Fosters are screened by a specially trained foster screening team using a similar process to the adoption screening process. Fosters are required to attend a two-hour training class and two adoption events each month.



## LUCKY DOG YOUTH PROGRAM

Lucky Dog's Kid's Club offers opportunities for children and teens to become involved in Lucky Dog's programs and learn about animal nutrition, health and safety. The Kid's Club meets monthly with special guests and adoptable dogs. The Ambassador's Club is for high school students and provides meaningful volunteer opportunities for that age group, including internships.

# FIXING ATHENA'S BROKEN HEART



When Lucky Dog rescued Athena from Mississippi last June, we promised her, as we promise all Lucky Dogs and Cats, "Your suffering is behind you, your new life starts now." Yet, unlike many of our other rescues, bringing her to DC was not enough to fulfill that promise.

Soon after her arrival, we noticed something was not quite right with Athena. She was easily tired by things that should not be taxing for a young and active dog. We consulted with our veterinary partners at Friendship Hospital for Animals and discovered Athena needed open-heart surgery to correct a hole in her heart. We knew we had to find a way to make this life-saving surgery happen so we reached out to our supporters for help, and you stepped up in a big way!

Without your support, we would never be able to provide this specialized care, and Athena would not be with us today. Thanks to your generosity, she has recovered beautifully and has since been adopted by her amazing foster dad. If you meet her today, you would never suspect that this bright, energetic and happy two-year old dog almost didn't get her happily ever after.

At Lucky Dog, we don't give up when the going gets tough -- or when we're faced with extraordinary challenges. Giving second chances to adoptable and at-risk animals with no other hope is what Lucky Dog is all about. And, it's why YOU make such a difference. You make everything we do possible, and together we are going to achieve great things for homeless animals in 2021 and beyond.



# 2020 EVENTS

We celebrated our 11th year of saving lives with great success! We transitioned our model in March to a virtual model to continue saving lives and engaging our community. Lucky Dog hosted multiple virtual adoption and fundraising events and campaigns while we partnered with area and national businesses and individuals to support our most successful year yet.

## 2020 MAJOR EVENT

Lucky Dog LIVE! A virtual variety show

## 2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Online Apparel Sales
- Social Media Contests
- Pups on the Patio Happy Hour
- Kid's Summer Camp - Camp Diggity Dog
- Trick or Treating with Dogma Bakery
- Santa Photos at Dogma Bakery
- Birthday Celebrations
- Wedding Celebrations
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrations
- World Bank Charity Social (virtual)
- Combined Federal Campaign events (virtual)
- Virtual Private Happy Hours

Virtual Shop Kendra Scott Shopping Event

Virtual Art Exhibitions

Virtual CPR Class

Virtual Photography Class

Virtual Winery Events

Virtual Whiskey Tasting

Virtual Trivia

Virtual Pisco Tasting

Virtual Visit with Santa Claus

Virtual Bingo

Virtual Pup Parties

Virtual Holiday Fair

1st Quarter in-person Pup Parties and Conventions

1st Quarter In-Person Bingo

1st Quarter In-Person Art Exhibition

## 2020 CAMPAIGN EVENTS

- Giving Tuesday NOW
- Strut Your Mutt
- Giving Tuesday
- End of Year Giving



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

## OUR CHAMPIONS

Each year more than one thousand volunteers keep Lucky Dog moving forward and saving lives. Whether handling an animal at an adoption event, entering data, answering voicemails, updating our website, driving animals to adoption events, helping with transports, conducting home visits, assisting with special events, or answering the myriad calls to action we have each week, every volunteer is essential. Lucky Dog would not survive without them.

### WE ARE FOSTER BASED

The number of dogs and cats we save every year is directly dependent on our Foster Team. Not only do fosters welcome our dogs and cats into their homes, but they play critical roles at adoption events and as ambassadors on behalf of our animals. It takes a lot of people to keep our foster team running!

Foster Screeners onboard new fosters. Overnight Fosters provide care for the night a dog arrives off transport. Puppy and Kitten Fosters provide specialized care to the most vulnerable of our animals. And, Full Time fosters give our dogs and cats a place to live until they are adopted. Each part of the foster team plays a critical role in Lucky Dog's life-saving work. We know that fostering is not always easy, and we know how much our foster team puts into their work. We can't thank them enough!

### ADOPTION EVENTS ARE WHERE IT'S AT

Each week Lucky Dog hosts multiple adoption events across the DMV to provide adopters with opportunities to meet multiple dogs and cats. Each animal is assigned a volunteer at the event. Volunteer Liaisons make sure everyone is trained and has a great experience. Event Support Volunteers assist adopters with the adoption process. Puppy Protectors keep our puppies safe. And, all of these moving parts are coordinated by extremely talented and hard-working Event Coordinators. The hard work and dedication of our adoption event volunteers make it possible for hundreds of dogs and cats to be adopted at our adoption events each year.



## ADOPTION COORDINATORS ADVOCATE FOR OUR ANIMALS

Lucky Dog's Adoption Coordinators are our animals' strongest advocates, from posting the dogs and cats online, to screening potential adopters, to completing adoption paperwork and giving support once our animals find their forever homes. The amount of time and effort they put into every part of the adoption process is truly amazing. We would never be able to place our Lucky Dogs and Cats in forever homes without their dedication and hard work. We are lucky to have our Adoption Coordinators as part of our Lucky Dog family.

### ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEER: LESS SEXY BUT SO IMPORTANT

The behind-the-scenes work keeping Lucky Dog running can be overwhelming for our small but mighty staff. But our administrative volunteers make it possible.

From data entry to adoption folder making to fundraising outreach as part of our development team, our administrative volunteers take on roles that don't bring them in direct contact with animals. They may not get the immediate feel good moment of a puppy's kiss or a kitten's purr. But they keep the organization running and make it possible for us to save lives. We are exceptionally grateful.

### TO OUR SHELTER AND RESCUE PARTNERS

Our amazing rescue and shelter partners do all they can for the animals in their care. They work hard to ensure each animal that transports to Lucky Dog is as healthy as possible. The tireless efforts of our partners at Kauai Humane Society, in Kauai Hawaii; Carroll County Animal Shelter in Carroll, Georgia; Floyd County Animal Control in Floyd, Georgia; Walker County Animal Shelter in Chickamauga, Georgia; Tupelo Lee Humane Society in Tupelo, Mississippi; Paws of Hertford County, Martinsville Henry County SPCA, in Hertford North Carolina; PR Animals, in Puerto Rico; Colleton County Animal Shelter in Walterboro, South Carolina; Dillon County Animal Shelter in Dillon, South Carolina; Florence County Environmental Services in Florence, South Carolina; Second Chance Animal Shelter in Manning, South Carolina; Whiskers Animal Rescue and Sanctuary in Loris, South Carolina; Animal Shelter of Sullivan County in Sullivan, Tennessee; Franklin County Planned Pethood in Rocky Mount, Virginia; King George Animal Rescue in King George, Virginia; Pittsylvania County Pet Center in Chatham, Virginia; American Pets Alive as a central distribution center; Austin Pets Alive! in Austin, Texas; Bastrop County Animal Services in Bastrop, Texas; Laredo County Animal Services in Laredo, Texas; and San Antonio Pets Alive! in San Antonio, Texas made it possible for us to rescue so many wonderful animals. We are also incredibly grateful for all that our Lucky Dog - Team South Carolina does for the dogs and cats of Florence County. We appreciate everything that they do to ensure those who enter their shelters become Lucky Dogs and Cats!

# VOLUNTEERS

## SHEVI LERNER AND MEGAN TRACY



At age three it became apparent to my family that my obsession with dogs was unmatched. Two years and a guinea pig later my parents and siblings caved, and we adopted my first dog, Penny. I was five years old and she was roughly a year and a half. We have grown up together, and she has been by my side through all the thick and thin of life.

Fast forward seven years to 2016. I was twelve years old, Penny was about 8, and my life was about to change. As a 12 year old, I was preparing for my Bat Mitzvah, in which it is customary to conduct a community service project. It was not a question that I wanted to work with rescue dogs but the question

Mom handled the dog on the leash as I read through the bio, talked to potential adopters, got kisses from our cute adoptable dog, and gave out treats. I may not have been doing much, but I was having the time of my life. Little did I know on that day that Lucky Dog would become as much of a part of my life as it has. From that moment on, I was hooked. I dragged my Mom to adoption events for the following two years about twice a month.

In 2018, we began to foster with Lucky Dog. We fostered seven adult dogs and then quickly spiraled into puppies. 5 puppies later we took my now 2 year old dog, Rocky (formally Tonka) home from transport. It took us a total of 10 hours to come to the conclusion that he had already found his forever home with us.

Due to unexpectedly adopting an awesome albeit messy puppy, we put fostering on hold for a while. For me, this meant I had to find another way to stay as involved with Lucky Dog. At this point, my Mom was no longer willing to go to events as much as I wanted to so I asked to become a Junior Volunteer Liaison. I began attending every Sunday adoption event, as far from my house as they may be. After a few months of filling water bowls and talking to volunteers, I began training new volunteer handlers, shadowed staff members as an assistant photographer and foster coordinator, and learned all about the adoption table. My eagerness to learn more about the

organization drove me to the summer of 2019 when I became a Lucky Dog intern and went to the Lucky Dog office daily to help with whatever was needed. I learned how to help with voicemails, post dogs to portal, data entry work and so much more.

In addition, I have gone with Lucky Dog to both Florence, South Carolina in the midst of Hurricane Dorian and to Puerto Rico where we got to bring home a dog to foster. These trips helped show me that all the work we do here in the DMV has a much wider impact than I expected. The team in South Carolina and at PR Animals are so devoted to saving lives and they truly do inspire.

As my drive and passion for animal rescue grew, so did my involvement with Lucky Dog. In 2020, Lucky Dog was truly a blessing in disguise for me. As my school shut down so did every other extracurricular activity I participated in. All of them except for Lucky Dog which instead increased transports from every other weekend to every weekend. I soon forgot all about my other extracurricular activities because, as I spent more time volunteering, I spent more time in my happy place. Friday's quickly became my favorite day of the week. This is because I finish virtual school fairly early and immediately head into the Lucky Dog office where I help prep for the busy transport weekend ahead. I attend every Saturday transport and never do I leave without a smile on my face. I accepted the role of Youth Program Co-Team Lead a few months ago and have enjoyed sending out weekly emails to Adoption Coordinators.

I have come to know the staff at Lucky Dog pretty closely in my five years and I am in awe of what they are able to

accomplish. Some might say there are 24 hours in a day, but at Lucky Dog, I think they have magically made days longer. The passion, dedication, and selflessness this team shows every day is unmatched. I have learned to be more confident through rescue work and through watching this amazing group of staff members and volunteers at work for a cause larger than themselves. I am now 17 and Penny is 13, and we can both say with confidence that we would not be the same without Lucky Dog Animal Rescue. I am so grateful that an organization was able to see my dedication and was willing to take a chance on me. I couldn't be more proud of being just a small part of Lucky Dog's accomplishments and I am so grateful to have found my biggest passion at a young age.

**- Shevi Lerner -Youth Program Co-lead and so much more**



My journey to Lucky Dog started about 5 years ago when I was looking to adopt my first dog. I had applied to a couple rescues, but Lucky Dog was the most responsive and ended up pre-approving me after the dog I applied for got adopted. I was looking for a dog that was good with cats as I still had my childhood kitty, then 13 years old (now still kicking at almost 19), who would need to be won over by the new arrival. I was set up with our matchmaking team who recommended a dog named "Baby Girl." The name wasn't doing much for me, but she seemed to be exactly what I was looking for. So that weekend I made my way into Arlington to meet her at an adoption event. She was the dog barking at all the other dogs walking by, but it really didn't matter to me because I instantly fell in love! By the next weekend I was bringing her home and settled on her new name, Abby.

Eventually I realized that there was more I could be doing in my free time. That's why in 2018, I decided to sign up to volunteer with Lucky Dog. I'm a fairly organized and detail-oriented person, so I started off as an event coordinator, and that role was a great fit for me. I will never forget my first adoption event at Dogma Bakery where I met so many long-time volunteers and got my first glimpse of being "behind the adoption table." I went back a few more times, then started driving and handling dogs, and by then my weekends were history! I started helping with lots of behind the scenes emails for event coordinating, starting helping out with our events@ account, and even became the Events Team Lead.

But of course when you start doing one thing at Lucky Dog, it's hard to not start doing another. I had a little extra space in my home so I decided to start cat fostering, and 25 fosters later I have loved and learned so much. I never "failed" any but there were a couple that completely stole my heart and I will never forget (special shoutout to Gummy, Mick & Ziva)!! If there is one role that brought me the most gratitude and joy (and tears), it was definitely fostering.

After I became more involved with the cat team as a foster, I realized that I had acquired a lot of cat knowledge throughout my years, so why not share that with potential adopters? I attended a cat adoption coordinator training and decided to try it out, and over a year later, I'm still doing it (with almost 150 adoptions completed)!

Any sane person would probably stop there, but of course I had to find more ways to get involved. As a software



engineer by day, I realized there was a lot I could help Lucky Dog with in terms of automation and tooling. Over the last 2 years, I've built an entire website with google integration to help automate some of the many emails we send out on a regular basis (from event drivers & confirmations to matchmaking emails for cats & dogs). My latest project was to automate syncing adoption statuses across google sheets - that was a super fun one! I now get to wear the fancy title of Technology Team Lead and maybe one day build a whole team of engineers to work on other cool projects for Lucky Dog.

And although I enjoy all my volunteer roles with Lucky Dog, sometimes life changes and brings you to other places. For me this means I recently found myself living in New York City. However, if there is a bright side to this global pandemic we find ourselves in, it's that with everything so virtual I still feel just as connected and can continue volunteering for my favorite animal rescue. I can't wait to help facilitate even more cat adoptions and build more automation tools for Lucky Dog in 2021.

**Megan Tracy, Volunteer Cat Adoption Coordinator**

# VOLUNTEERS

## NANCY LOGAN

I have been a volunteer with Lucky Dog for almost three years. Having spent most of my free time volunteering in numerous roles at my kid's schools, I started thinking about my next chapter

as my last son left home for college. I have been passionate about dogs since I was a child and having rescued two of my own, one from GA and the other from Southern VA, I did not need to think too



hard before deciding I wanted to devote my time to helping to save dogs. I was immediately taken in with the mission of Lucky dog, the like-minded passion of others for these animals and the team spirit that surrounds all activities.

I am currently an Adoption Coordinator, a foster and help with transports. I still find myself getting emotional at transports. As they open the van doors you see those adorable eyes peering out at you. They have no idea they are embarking on this

amazing journey going from the horrible conditions 24 hours prior to soon being loved and cared for in the wonderful homes of their foster or adopter.

Although being an adoption coordinator is my primary role, fostering gave me a different perspective and quickly taught me how critical this role is to the process. One of my favorite stories is a dog named Alma for whom I was both the adoption coordinator and foster. While she acclimated very well with me and my two dogs, it was a different story when one of my sons came home from college for break as she became very reactive towards him. Although it broke my heart to not care for her any longer, we placed her with another foster. She and I worked with a trainer to help Alma with her fears and anxieties.

At one of our adoption events a young man saw her sitting off to the side by herself in her red bandana. He reached out to me to let me know he was interested. When I asked him why he wanted to take on a dog with these challenges he simply said, "If I am going to rescue I want a harder to adopt dog, one who really needs a break." He, Alma and I have kept in contact and every fall we meet at a local dog park. She still remembers me and comes bombing towards me. That bond means the world to me. He continued to work with her and adores her. She loves people and is over her fear of strangers. Despite her initial challenges Lucky Dog did not give up on Alma. We work hard to help our dogs and to find the right homes for them. Lucky Dog gave her a chance when otherwise she had none and she is now living a great life. This is what rescuing means to me.

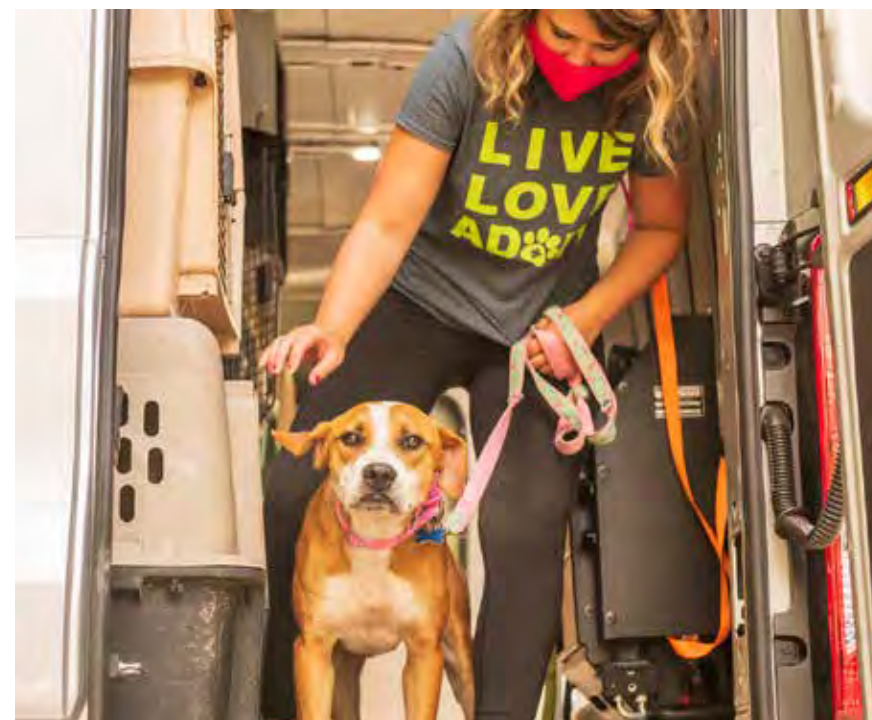


The year 2020 has given me an even greater appreciation for the importance of Lucky Dog and the commitment of our volunteers and staff. In March we had to cancel our adoption events. We were not sure if we would be able to continue bringing dogs into the area as everything was being shut down. I remember being on a zoom call with all the staff and volunteers when Mirah stated, "Until they block us at the border we will continue to bring these dogs in." It was a message of hope, resilience and steadfast commitment. The team and volunteers worked tirelessly revamping all processes and handling an unprecedented number of applications and adoptions. I experienced personal satisfaction not only from saving all these lives, but also from seeing the joy and purpose the animals brought to the adopters during this time of such uncertainty.

As I reflect on why I started volunteering with Lucky Dog I feel so fortunate to have found a place that is so meaningful and gives so much back. I look forward to continuing our great work and to a time when we can all meet in person again.

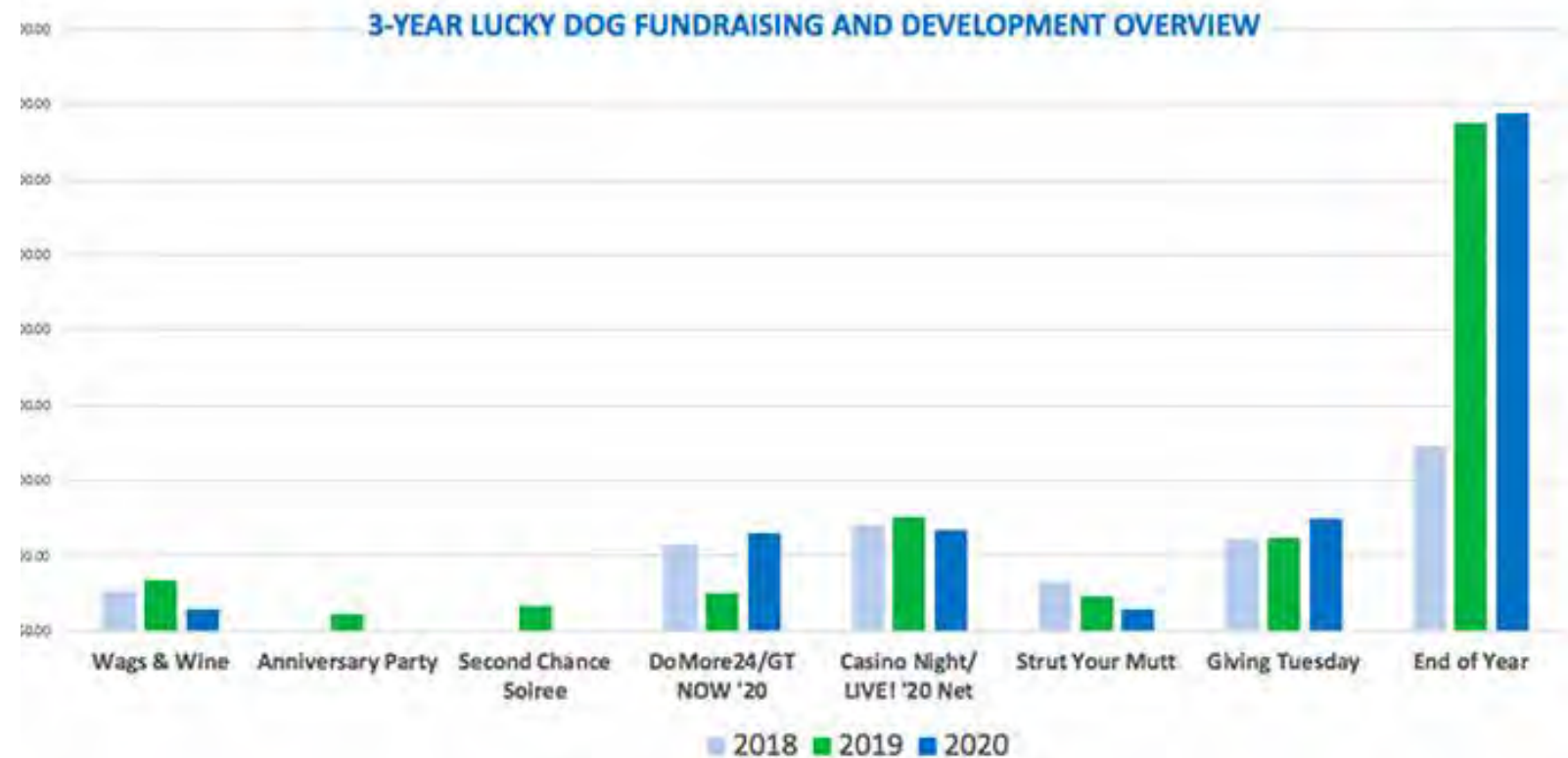
- Nancy Logan





# 2020 FINANCIALS

2020 was a year of change for Lucky Dog. We pivoted in a matter of weeks to a virtual model, onboarded 21 additional source shelters and nearly doubled our annual rescues. With a continued emphasis on community expansion, we established many new virtual events and new partners and programs while maintaining safety for everyone. With increased life saving rescues, comes increased veterinary, transport and critical care expenses. Our 2020 veterinary budget was exhausted by July 2020, though our supportive community supported the continued rescues, saving 3,500 at-risk animals by 12/31/2020. We want to give special thanks to our supporters, donors, partners and all of our volunteers -- you made 2020 our MOST successful year in saving lives and raising life-saving funds yet.



# 2020 MAJOR EVENTS AND RESULTS

## WAGS & WINE EXTRAVAGANZA

(cancelled the week before - sponsors/ guests donated) - \$14,026

Lucky Dog LIVE! A Virtual Variety Show - \$70,523

## 2020 CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Do More 24/ Giving Tuesday Now! - \$65,403

Strut Your Mutt - \$14,021

Clear the Shelters - \$8,559

Giving Tuesday - \$64,324

## 2020 GIVING TUESDAY & END OF YEAR WITH MATCHES!

Giving Tuesday - \$74,324

End of Year Fundraising - \$409,535

## NEW MAJOR GRANTS

PetSmart Adoption Preparation Grant - \$70,000

South Fork Foundation Operations Grant - \$24,000

Petco Foundation Operations Grant - \$12,500

South Fork Foundation COVID Relief Grant - \$5,000

Petco Foundation Hurricane Laura Grant - \$5,000

Pedigree COVID Relief Grant - \$2,500

Best Friends Animal Rescue Adoption Support Grant: \$2,000

## 2020 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY DONORS

\$6,875/Mo. | \$82,502 Annually

## UPDATED PUBLICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Annual Report

Legacy Planned Giving Program

Foundation Partnership Program

Furthered our LDAR Partners Page

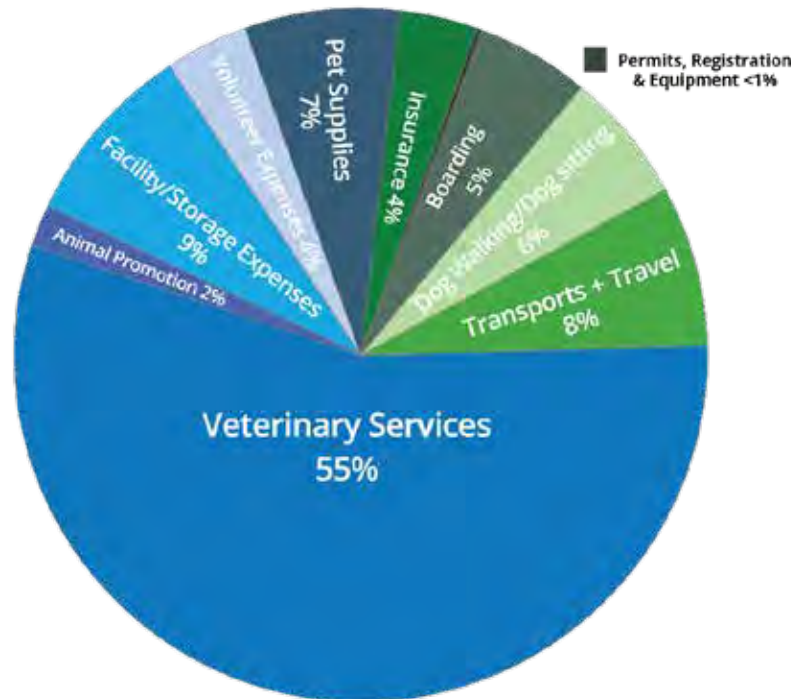
Lucky Dog Advisory Board and The Board of Directors teamed up to create Lucky Dog LIVE!



# 2020 DONORS

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In a year unlike any other, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue doubled down on its commitment to saving homeless animals in Puerto Rico. As an island community, Puerto Rico's rescue animals have only one way to find homes beyond the island's immediate population: flying to the mainland. And, as COVID-19 safety measures encouraged staying at home and stopping travel, flight options for rescue dogs and cats dried up, leaving Lucky Dog and our partners at PR Animals at a crossroads. How could we continue our lifesaving efforts?

For Puerto Rico, the challenges of 2020 did not begin with COVID-19, but with devastating earthquakes that racked the island in January. In response, Lucky Dog provided a free vaccine clinic and supplies for 18 dogs and cats as well as 20 kids in a tent city in Los Indios, Guayanilla, Puerto Rico. Members of the community lined up for assistance – ensure as many animals and children as possible in the

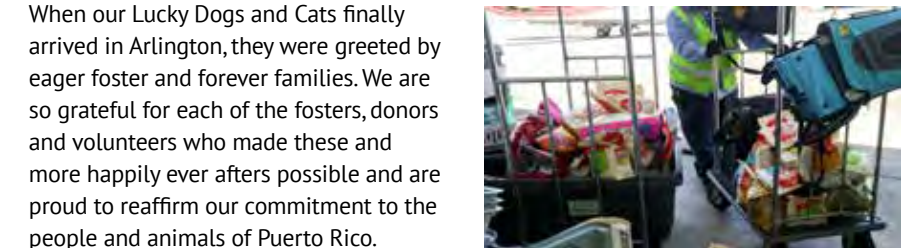
# LUCKY DOG REMAINS STEADFAST IN ITS SUPPORT FOR SATOS

community were able to receive essential supplies. Their town had been destroyed, yet all they thought about was each other.

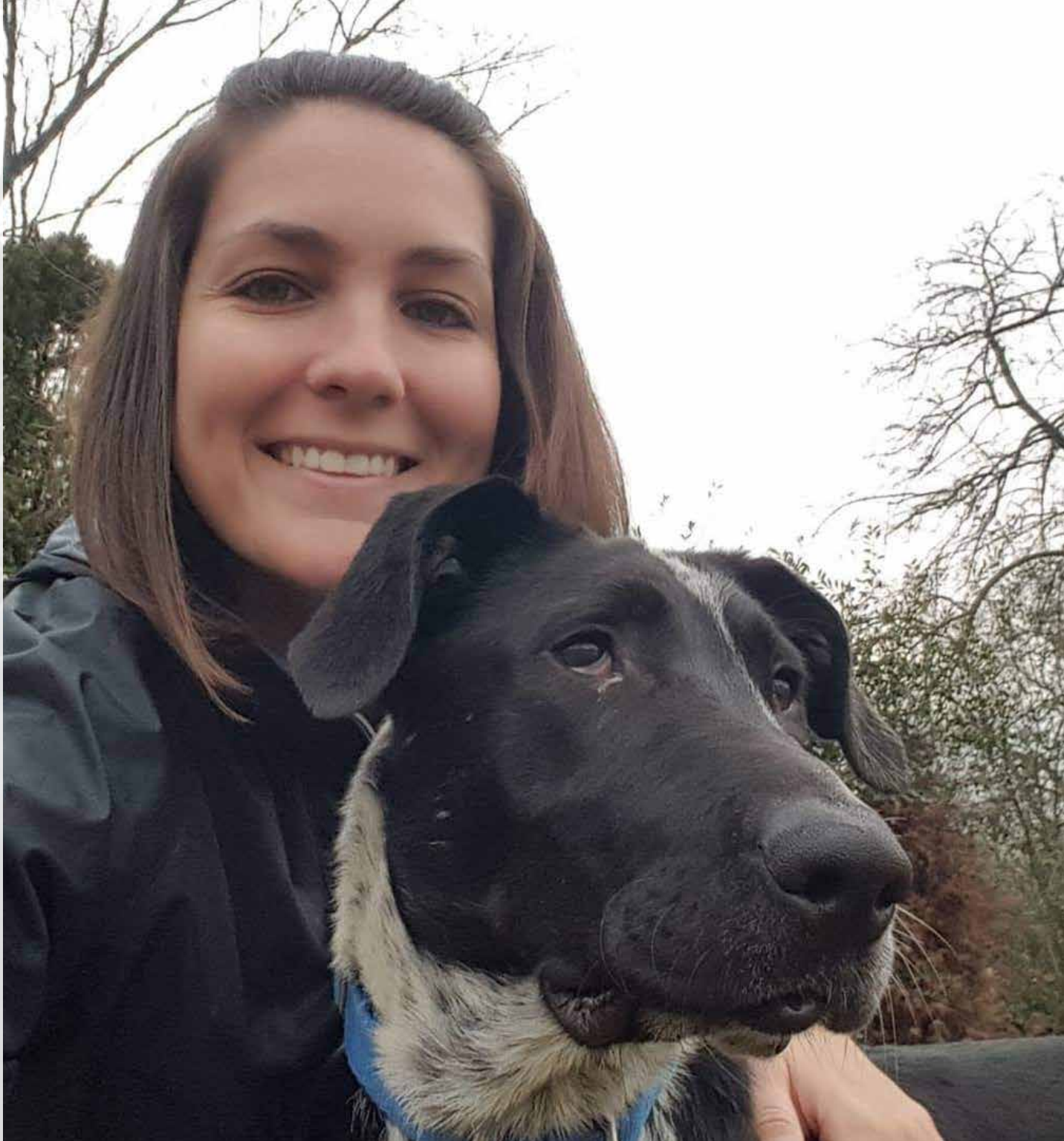
Then came the pandemic. The ensuing stay at home orders, disruption of commercial air travel, and limitation on nonessential sales prevented our rescue partners from transporting homeless animals off of the island and into loving homes. Pet overpopulation was growing, not slowing. The Pet Village -- where our partners at PR Animals housed their rescue dogs and cats -- was over-full. This growing crisis demanded a solution.

That's when Grant and Catherine Verstandig stepped in to save the day. They agreed to sponsor a relief flight to and from San Juan, and Team Lucky Dog sprang into action. We packed a van with over 700 pounds of crates, litter, food and other essential supplies that were needed by our partners at PR Animals.

From Arlington, staff members drove to Nashville and loaded a jet chartered through the Ryan Aviation Group. After the five-hour flight, they arrived in San Juan to unload the supplies and load 62 Lucky Dogs and Cats for their freedom flight to DC – using every available seat on the plane to hold crates. Among the animals transported were two that had waited over a year to meet their DC-based forever families.



The 2020 Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of Mandy DeVine (1983- 2020) Lucky Dog Volunteer Liaison and incredible woman who loved rescuing homeless animals.



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