

## A CASE FOR SUPPORT

Just Say "Yes" to Helping Homeless Pets









THE MISSION OF AUSTIN
PETS ALIVE! IS TO PROMOTE &
PROVIDE THE RESOURCES,
EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS
NEEDED TO ELIMINATE THE
KILLING OF COMPANION
ANIMALS.

Our innovative and comprehensive approach to lifesaving has always focused on filling the gaps other groups don't address so that no homeless pet is left behind. Today, APA!'s specialized programs to save the most challenging homeless pets are models for other cities across the country.

#### **RESCUE**

We continually assess the homeless pet landscape and fill gaps to ensure Austin's safety net for homeless pets remains whole.

#### **COMMUNITY**

Our role is to provide leadership for a communitywide project to help pets. Sustained by thousands of local volunteers, fosters and donors, this movement we've built together is a valued community resource.

#### **LEADERSHIP**

We provide national thought leadership for lifesaving programs and teach other communities how to save lives.

#### RESEARCH

We collect and use data to inform all our efforts, and are becoming a center for groundbreaking research into lifesaving care for shelter pets.

## A Message from Executive Director Ellen Jefferson, DVM

## Good Things Happen When We All Say "Yes"



From the very beginning, Austin Pets Alive! has believed in saying "yes." It is the only humane answer when the question is whether shelter animals deserve a chance to be healed, housed, nurtured and understood. Since 2008, we've been counting on city leaders and animal lovers to say "yes" right along with us—even when the work was hard, unheard of, heartbreaking and no one else wanted to do it.

Today, we can rightly say our community's heroic efforts have transformed Austin into a safe haven for dogs and cats—a place where 98 percent of homeless animals get a second chance at life. We've been so successful that communities around the country are looking to APA!'s innovative programs as models for their own efforts.

It's a big responsibility to be on the forefront of a national No Kill wave, and our work is far from done. While our number one priority will always be saving animal lives, we also want to deepen efforts so animals in our charge have greater opportunity to thrive. That natural evolution requires a facility that better meets animal needs, and we have secured an agreement with Austin that allows us to use our current location for 75 years, provided we raise enough funds to build a modern facility by 2022.

As we work toward that goal, however, we must also continue normal operations and continue innovating so we better serve the more than 10,000 animals who enter our care each year. That means providing more effective, efficient animal care and improved customer service for our adopters so pets get out of the shelter and into homes sooner.

As we enter this new phase and expand our goals, we'll be counting on the donors, volunteers and colleagues who have made it possible for us to save 65,000 dogs and cats since 2008. We hope you will join our chorus of "yes" to help us save even more animal lives and ensure Austin remains a safe place for pets for generations to come.







# PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP— TEN YEARS OF SAVING LIVES

In 2007—before Austin Pets Alive! began working with the City of Austin—fewer than 50 percent of animals who entered Austin Animal Center (AAC) left the facility alive. For the past decade, APA! has developed programs, conducted research and provided education all with one overarching mission: Stop the killing of companion animals. Every year, we get a little better, reach a little farther and find new ways to innovate so more dogs and cats have a chance to make their way home.

- Official launch as a rescue organization
- Parvo Puppy ICU opens as first of seven key lifesaving programs
- First medical clinic established in an Airstream trailer

Austin passes No Kill
 Implementation Plan

for have two playgroups a day, rain or shine

Implementation of the Dogs

Playing for Life model allows

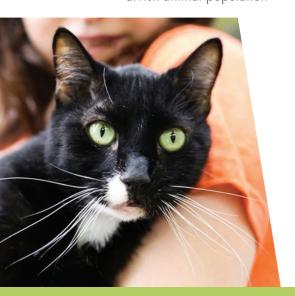
2008

2010

2012

## 2009

 Neonatal Kitten Nursery launches after orphaned kittens identified as largest at-risk animal population



## 2011

- Austin officially achieves No Kill status, saving 90 percent of all homeless animals—all healthy small dogs, puppies and cats are saved
- More animals saved thanks to launch of Feline Leukemia Adoption Center, Ringworm Adoption Center and Barn Cat Program
- First American Pets Alive!
   conference held
- APA! moves into current location at Town Lake Animal Center

#### 2013

- Austin wins \$1.3 million
   Maddie's Fund Community
   Lifesaving Award
- APA! expands to Tarrytown
   Dog Adoption Center



- APA!-Austin Animal Center relationship grows stronger
- Dog Matchmaker Program launches and Austin achieves No Kill for big dogs, bringing save rate to 97 percent
- 2015

- APA! celebrates 50,000th adoption
- Hurricane Harvey response saves 5,000 pets
- City of Austin approves75-year lease at Town Lake facility
- APA! receives \$4 million grant for full Maddie's Lifesaving Academy
- Maddie's Fund research into parvovirus begins

2017



- Capital campaign to rebuild Town Lake Animal Center begins
- New research into feline leukemia will follow up on the groundbreaking results of first study

2019

## 2016

- Dog Adoption Follow-up Program begins
- Dr. Jefferson receives the Avanzino National No Kill Leadership Award
- National research on feline leukemia begins
- Maddie's Lifesaving Academy piloted

## 2018

- Board increases operations by 35 percent in order to save more Texas pets
- Austin's save rate reaches98 percent
- Research program into Feline Leukemia begins

## 2023

 Construction set to begin on new shelter







#### **MOANING MYRTLE**

- Snake bite: Emergency care in Medical Triage and Wellness Clinic
- Separation Anxiety: Dog Behavior Program while in Foster Home
- Adjustment to Adoptive Home:
   Dog Adoption Follow-up
   Program



#### TOMODACHI

- Diaphragmatic hernia and breathing problems: Surgery in Medical Triage and Wellness Clinic
- FeLV+: Spent four months in Feline Leukemia Adoption Center

## BRIGHT IDEAS—USING DATA TO CREATE INNOVATIVE, LIFESAVING PROGRAMS

How does APA! save 10,000 animals a year? Since rescuing our very first pets from Austin Animal Center (AAC) in 2008, the answer has always started with data. First, we used data to identify which animals were most at risk of being killed; then we used data to develop programs and protocols that enabled us to save them all. As a result, we've established, tweaked and almost perfected seven key programs that allow us to rescue, treat and train the vast majority of at-risk animals in AAC. In order to save even more animal lives, we're now training other communities on how to collect information and create data-driven programs that end shelter deaths in their area.

#### PARVO PUPPY ICU

No Kill Barrier: Parvovirus is a death sentence in the shelter world.

APA! Solution: A first-of-its-kind quarantined ICU program to care for and rehabilitate dogs exposed to parvovirus.

#### **NEONATAL KITTEN NURSERY**

No Kill Barrier: Orphaned, unweaned kittens are euthanized by default in most shelters across America.

APA! Solution: A groundbreaking, volunteer-driven, bottle-feeding program.

#### DOG BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

No Kill Barrier: Shelters rarely give dogs who display challenging behaviors a chance to make it out alive.

APA! Solution: Properly assess complicated dogs and provide them with training to develop skills they need to live well with people and other animals.

#### RINGWORM ADOPTION CENTER

No Kill Barrier: Ringworm is a death sentence for cats in most shelter settings.

APA! Solution: A rescue-treatment-education-adoption program that destigmatizes and treats ringworm and gets pets into adoptive homes.

#### BARN CAT PROGRAM

No Kill Barrier: Most animal shelters kill unsocialized or feral cats unsuited for adoption into a home.

APA! Solution: A path for undomesticated cats to avoid shelter euthanasia lists and be adopted into safe environments as working animals.

#### FELINE LEUKEMIA ADOPTION CENTER

No Kill Barrier: Animal shelters automatically euthanize FeLV+ cats upon diagnosis.

APA! Solution: A protocol for diagnosing, sheltering and homing FeLV+ cats, along with a revolutionary research program that has changed how the field views this misunderstood disease.

#### MEDICAL TRIAGE AND WELLNESS CLINIC

No Kill Barrier: Most shelters will not save animals brought in with medical needs.

APA! Solution: A clinic where every animal has a chance to receive treatment for all medical issues, whether they are big or small.

#### AMERICAN PETS ALIVE!

No Kill Barrier: Most communities lack the know-how to become No Kill.

APA! Solution: Teaching and outreach to shelters across the country.



Helping People Help Pets

**Charity Navigator:** Four Star Charity (top rating)

**GuideStar:** Platinum Participant (top nonprofit rating)

Austin Chronicle: Best of Austin Nonprofit Award in 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018

Avanzino Leadership Award: 2016 National Award for Outstanding Leadership in Animal Welfare

**Best Friends:** 2016 There's No Place Like Home Award

Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce: 2017 Blackbaud Nonprofit Award

#### **Pedigree Foundation:**

Dogs Rule Grant winner, the foundation's largest-ever innovation award

## "WE ARE SO PROUD AUSTIN IS THE NATION'S LEADING NO KILL CITY! AUSTIN PETS ALIVE! IS KEY TO MAKING IT HAPPEN." -AUSTIN MAYOR STEVE ADLER

#### GOAL ORIENTED—A SHELTER LIKE NO OTHER

APA!'s visionary leaders never dreamed of creating a No Kill shelter—we dreamed of creating an entire city where all homeless pets could be safe. That vision, backed by a willing local government and generous, determined animal activists, has resulted in a citywide safety net for Austin's companion animals.

In the nationwide shelter community, Austin Pets Alive! stands out not only for our big-hearted approach to animal rescue, smart management of donated funds and generous volunteer network, but also for our ability to research and respond to data as we see it revealed in our very unique setting. In order to ensure Austin remains a safe haven for shelter animals, APA! will continue proving we are innovative researchers, good stewards of volunteer time and donor dollars, and reliable partners to the city and rescue community.

"I HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR MANY ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT MY ADULT LIFE. I EXPECT TO SEE A CONSISTENT USE OF DONATED FUNDS FOR THEIR INTENDED PUR-POSE. THIS ORGANIZATION DOES A GOOD JOB WITH THAT. I WOULD NOT SPEND MY VALUABLE PERSONAL TIME, USUALLY AROUND FIVE HOURS PER WEEK, OTHERWISE." – APA VOLUNTEER



OUR LANDMARK FELV+ RESEARCH PROGRAM YIELDED TWO GROUNDBREAKING FINDINGS THAT WILL CHANGE HOW THE FIELD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE VIEWS THE DISEASE



ACCORDING TO A 2017 UNIVERSITY OF DENVER STUDY, THE COMBINED ANIMAL LIFESAVING EFFORTS OF APA! AND THE CITY OF AUSTIN HAS RESULTED IN AN ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT OF \$157 MILLION.



### A QUANTIFIABLE DIFFERENCE



- AUSTIN IS THE SAFEST CITY IN THE UNITED STATES FOR HOME-LESS DOGS AND CATS
- APA! RESCUES 10,000 DOGS AND CATS EACH YEAR
- 65,000 ANIMAL LIVES SAVED
- 3,127 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS
- 140,000 ANNUAL VOLUNTEER HOURS
- 1,000 ANIMALS IN FOSTER AT ANY GIVEN TIME



#### **SMART MONEY— 2019 FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Every year, our rescue tally is reset from 10,000 animal lives saved back to zero. Every year, we start from scratch treating parvo puppies, bottle feeding kittens, training challenging dogs and saving all of the hard-to-home animals whose lives depend on us most. Because all of our programs rely on outside funding, each new year of saving animals is just as daunting as the one before, and we will continue to rely on community support to ensure no pet loses its life on APA!'s watch. While our specific needs may shift from year to year, all of our priorities feed into one overarching mission: Saving Lives.



"WE STARTED BY VOLUNTEERING AT AUSTIN PETS
ALIVE! AND WITNESSED THE PASSION AND COMMITMENT OF ITS LEADERS. WHAT WE SO ADMIRE IS THAT
APA! SEES A PROBLEM AND CREATES A LONG-LASTING
PROGRAM TO SOLVE IT. WE BECAME DONORS BECAUSE
WE COULD SEE THAT OUR CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD
HAVE A REAL AND DIRECT IMPACT ON LIFESAVING."
—SHARON AND BRUCE WALKER

#### IMPROVING PROGRAMS

- SUSTAINING MEDICAL TRIAGE AND WELLNESS CLINIC
- BIG DOG ADOPTION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

#### **EXPANDING REACH**

- MADDIE'S LIFESAVING ACADEMY
- AMERICAN PETS ALIVE! ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- CRISIS RESPONSE

#### IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

- IMPROVING CURRENT FACILITIES
- LAUNCHING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO REBUILD SHELTER
- ADOPTION AND CARE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT DEVELOPMENT@AUSTINPETSALIVE.ORG

JOIN US IN SAYING "YES" TO SAVING HOMELESS ANIMALS



