



**YOUR  
2022  
IMPACT**



# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

**When I look back on 2022, one word springs to mind: growth.** The number of cats at the Oakland shelter grew by 16% over the previous year — an unprecedented increase. Thankfully, together with a community of cat lovers, shelters, and rescue organizations, we rose to the challenge. Cat Town is proud to have helped Oakland again exceed a 90% lifesaving rate for shelter cats, while continuing to focus on finding great homes for cats once deemed ‘unadoptable’. To support more cats, our team had to grow, too — adding a cat care coordinator and adoption coordinator to streamline our efforts. Through all of this, we made sure that the cats who have always needed and depended on us stayed front and center.

Cat Town continually strives to improve, following one of our founder’s informal mottos, “better is better.” As we grow, we ask ourselves: “How can we do more for the shelter’s overlooked cats, more for our community, and more to make Cat Town a place where guests, volunteers, and staff feel welcome and supported? How can we enmesh our values into our practices? How can we remove barriers for adoption? How can we make Oakland, the Bay Area, and beyond, a better place for cats and people alike?”

As we strive to meet the ever-growing need for our work, we also reflect: “What does the best version of Cat Town look like? How can we anticipate the next need, and the next after that?” The answer comes in working together — because when we can lean on our community, our volunteers, and our donors, we know that we can rise to whatever challenge comes next.

I’m excited to see what we can accomplish together. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Warm regards,



Andrew Dorman  
Executive Director



# OUR COMMUNITY

Our intrepid fosters supported **189** cats in 2022, ensuring those who needed a calm environment got the support they needed to thrive. Cats who wouldn't do as well in our Adoption Center — including our sickest, oldest, and most stressed cats — benefitted from this big-hearted network of volunteers.



At our Adoption Center, **158** incredible volunteers logged **5,800** hours, welcoming more than **9,200** guests and potential adopters. Volunteers helped with administrative work, sanitation, socialization, post-adoption support, and more to stretch your dollars and your impact as much as possible.



We converted our in-person apprenticeships into a new, online curriculum to help even more hard-to-adopt cats across the nation. This new program is in the top **4%** of over 500 Maddie's University courses.



# OUR CATS



Senior cats can be especially vulnerable in a shelter setting. They're often surrendered with a host of medical issues, and with so many years of life behind them, many people pass them by in favor of younger cats. Our **In It for Life** program gives older cats nearing the end of their lives a helping hand by covering medical expenses related to their hospice care, so that medical bills are never a barrier to their adoption.

Kittens "age out" of their ideal window for learning to trust humans by 8 weeks old — so older, hissy kittens are often considered too old to socialize and adopt. With Cat Town's **Forgotten Kitten Project**, we teach 4 to 10-month-old youngsters how to be brave, by working with them in a cage-free environment. In 2022, we piloted a program to socialize a greater number of kittens, and meet the growing need for this work by starting younger and working faster. We called it **Summer School**, but continued enrolling kittens through December.





Cat Town's **Emergency Medical Fund** supports cats with needs that rise above and beyond routine treatment. This donor-funded program covers cats with compromised immune systems; purchases medications for chronic conditions like asthma, diabetes, and hyperthyroidism; helps us resolve acute conditions like dermatitis and ringworm; and provides lifesaving surgery. In doing so, we free up valuable resources at municipal shelters, where veterinary care is often limited, to help as many animals as possible.



A shelter cage can be stressful for even the most confident of cats. Those who once lived in homes can be frustrated by their cage, and show it with hisses, stomps, or even a bite. Shy and sensitive cats can freeze up and become unresponsive to affection, preferring to hide. Cat Town gets cats with **cage stress** into peaceful, cage-free environments where they can relax: a foster home, a Studio, or the free-roaming room at our Adoption Center. Once they feel like themselves again, they can show adopters who they are when they feel their best.

# ADOPTION SPOTLIGHT: HALO

Ten-year-old Halo was brought to a local shelter as a stray with declawed front paws. Although she was friendly and affectionate, she avoided her litter box — a common problem with declawed cats. The shelter knew she deserved a chance at a happy ending, and didn't have many other options, so they asked us to take Halo under our wing.



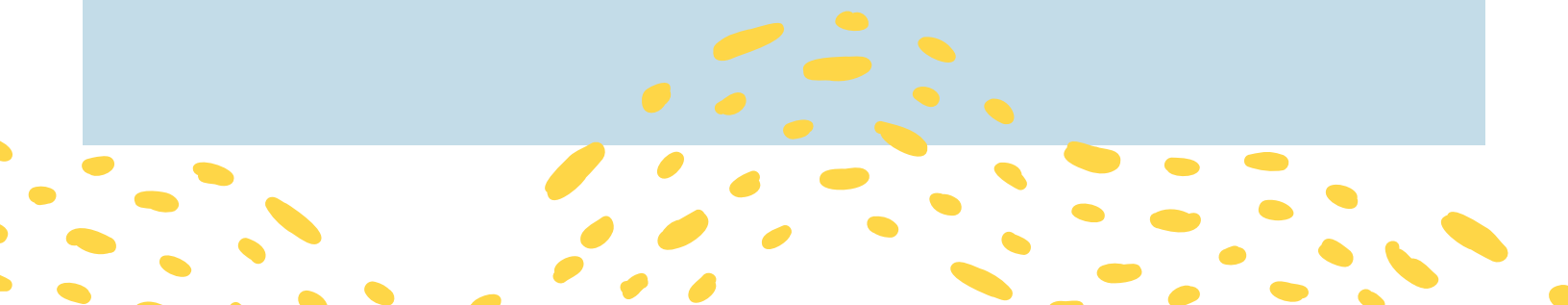
At our Adoption Center, Halo charmed everyone she met with her endearing demeanor — but shortly after arriving, she stopped eating. When a cat refuses food, it can get serious quickly, so we immediately got her checked up and discovered a bad urinary tract infection and kidney disease. Diagnosis now in hand, we started the process of getting her health back on track!

With her appetite returning, we moved her to a foster home to continue her recovery. Meanwhile, a family who had met her at our Adoption Center couldn't get her off their minds. To prevent her kidney disease from progressing, she would require a special diet and regular subcutaneous fluids. That level of care would deter a lot of potential adopters — but having already fallen in love, they knew she was worth every ounce of care.



After carefully explaining to the kids in the family that Halo might not have that many years to live, they called to let us know: “We have all unanimously and enthusiastically decided we would love to take her, and we would be happy to pick her up as soon as she's available. I have a whole bunch of faces looking at me right now with smiles on them. Halo has a family.”

Halo made herself at home right away, and nestled in their bed on the very first night. Her family says she never passes up a lap. It takes a village to help cats like Halo — the shelter staff who recognized that she needed extra support, Cat Town’s staff and volunteers who coaxed her to eat, our fosters who helped nurse her back to health, the adopters who took on her lifelong care, and you for supporting her every step of the way. Thank you for believing with us that every cat deserves a second chance!



# BY THE NUMBERS

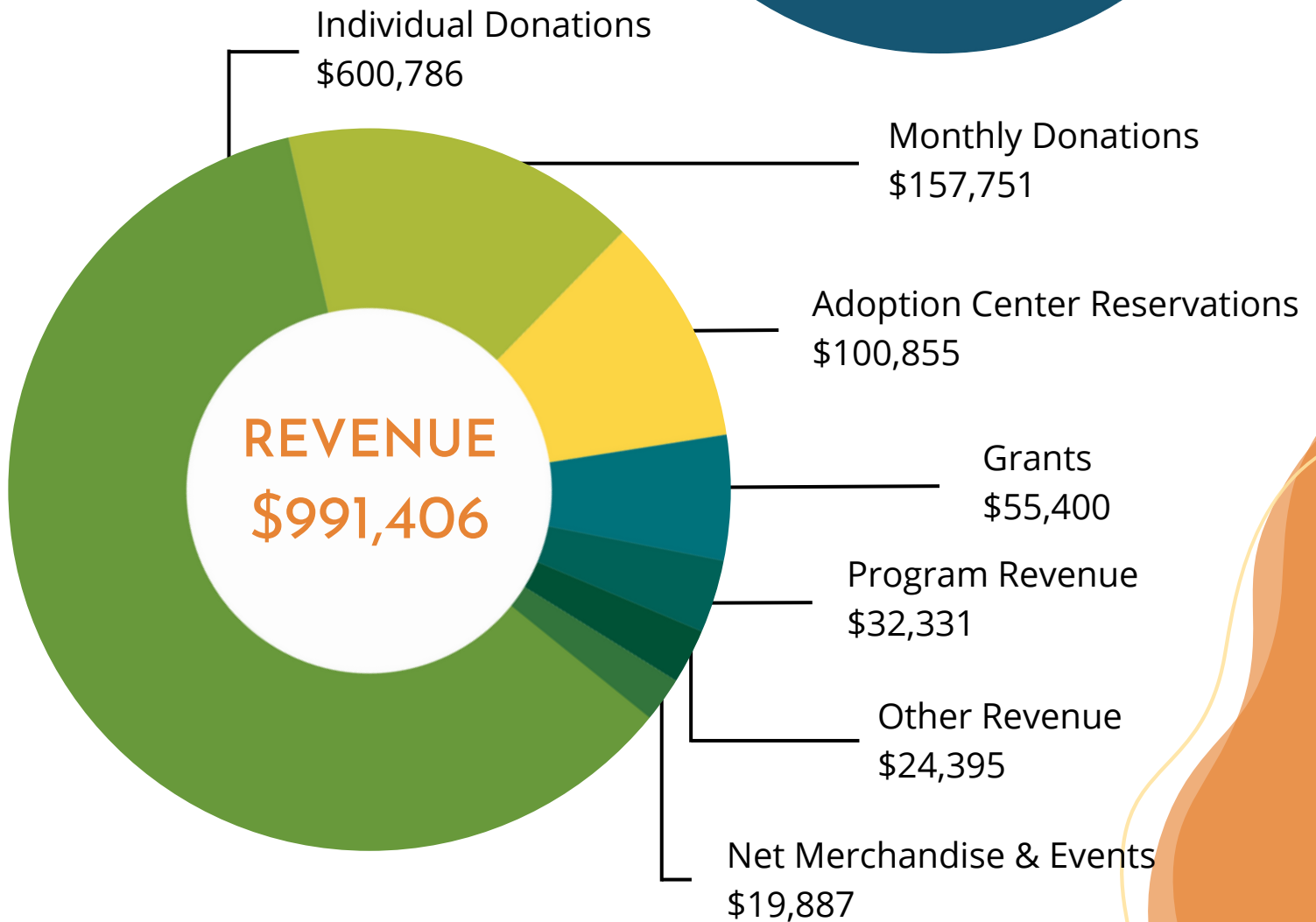
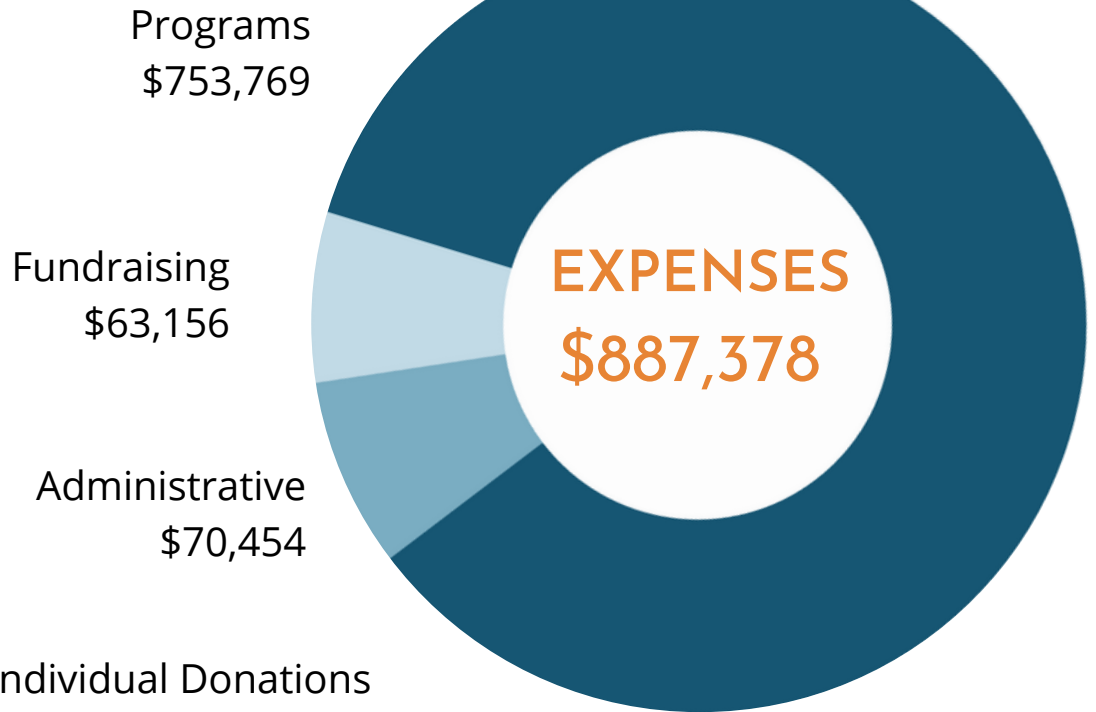


Cat Town focuses on the shelter cats who most need support, but are often the least likely to receive it. In doing so, we've helped reduce the euthanasia rate for Oakland's shelter cats by 70% since 2011. Your support helped **345** cats find homes, and allowed us to step in for a total of **417** cats in need in 2022.

<b>Stressed cats</b> got out of their cage so they could finally relax	152
Cats got the <b>medical care</b> they needed to thrive	131
<b>Forgotten Kittens</b> learned how to let down their guard	91
<b>Bonded pairs</b> stayed together through thick and thin	87
<b>Black cats</b> stood out in the crowd	76
<b>Senior cats</b> got a soft landing in their golden years	70
Cats with <b>FIV</b> broke stigmas around their condition	19
Cats with <b>FeLV</b> got the chance to live out their days in a home	3

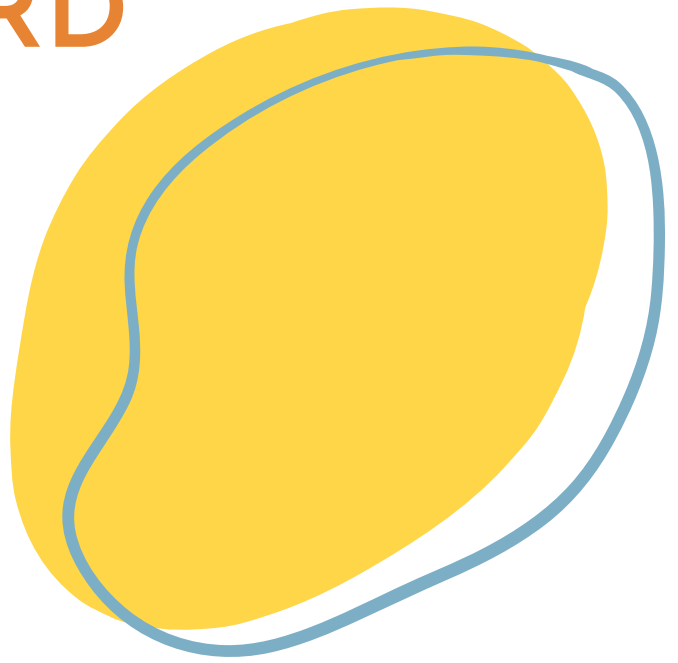


# FINANCIALS



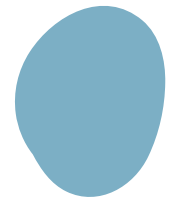
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