

SAVING LIVES SINCE 1935



2019  
ANNUAL REPORT

**"I can't promise I will be with you  
until the end of your life, but I can  
promise I will love you until  
the end of mine."**





## VALUES

### Integrity

Always act honestly, ethically and transparently for the benefit of the community's abandoned and neglected animals to ensure the highest wellbeing.

### Knowledge

Sharing our skills and spreading awareness of our mission to help reduce pet overpopulation.

### Commitment

Dedication to Aiken and beyond as a resource center for the community's abandoned animals, as well as personal pets.

### Respect

Ensure respect for animals' lives through education and action in our community and beyond.

## VISION

We envision a world in which every animal has a safe and loving home, access to quality veterinary care, and where the unfailing love and devotion of a companion animal is valued by all.

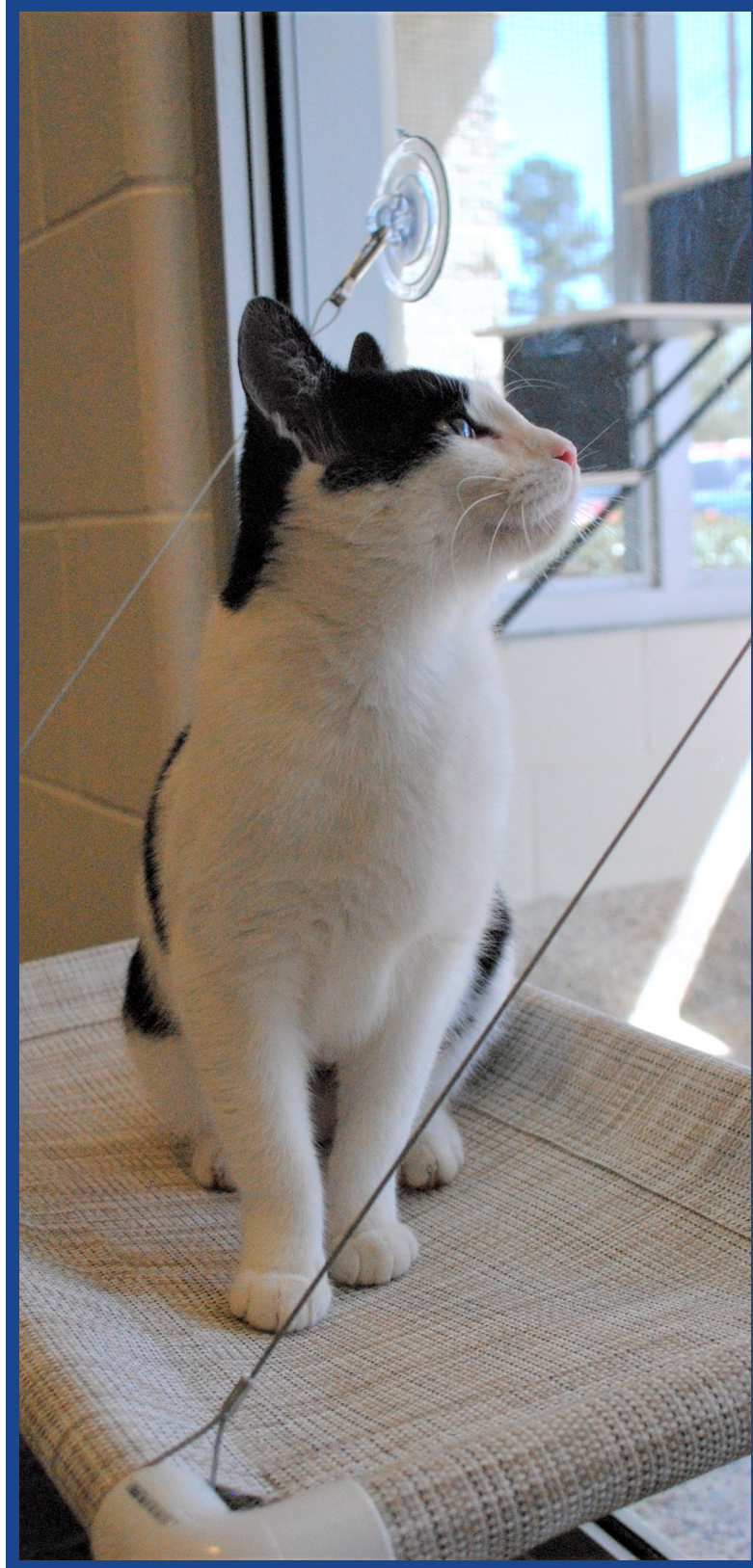
## MISSION

We strive to improve the lives of companion animals by rehoming abused, abandoned, and neglected pets while fighting for their well-being through vigorous legislative efforts, humane education, and by offering affordable veterinary care for all.

## Saving Lives Since 1935

*Established in 1935, the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare is a private, non-profit organization operating under IRS Section 501c3. We have been placing thousands of needy animals into loving forever homes for over 80 years. We depend upon local donations to support our efforts to save the lives of homeless dogs and cats in our community and receive no regular funding from state or federal agencies, or from the ASPCA. Our success is due to the efforts of dedicated SPCA Albrecht Center employees and volunteers, leadership and support from our Board of Directors, as well as the generous donations and continued support of our community.*

## 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Barbara Nelson**, President and CEO

**Mary Guynn**, Chairman

**Russ Richardson**, Vice Chairman

**Robert Fine**, Treasurer

**Jack Roth**, Secretary

Gary Albrecht

Marilyn Brady

Owen Bramlett

Sharon Brown

Ted Cummings

Sharer Dale

Charles Doremus

Amy Hebert Doremus

Pam Gleason

Nancy Goldmark

Lisa H. Handy, VMD

Jacquelyn Kane

Lorian Perlata-Ramos

Al Sorensen

Michael Sullivan

Jill Thomas

Steve Young

## FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Friends--

We are pleased to report that we were able to save over 96% of the animals that came to us. Those whose lives we could not save were either near death or too psychologically damaged because of human abuse or neglect.

Advocating for improved animal welfare legislation at all levels of government continues. At our suggestion, the City of Aiken wisely passed a 'Humane Tethering' ordinance, establishing rules and regulations for the way dogs are tied outdoors. We continue to work with the South Carolina state legislature on the same legislation, as well as continuing to press all levels of government that have not already done so, to pass ordinances that encourage spaying and neutering by charging a fertile dog fee for the risk of that animal contributing to the unwanted, homeless population. Those communities that have done so have experienced great success.

Although many people believe that private monetary donations support our shelter operations, that is generally not true. In a small city such as ours, where the local community supports many worthy non-profits, monetary donations are spread thin among the charitable organizations. Contributions fall far short of making up the losses from medically treating, caring for, and re-homing the unwanted, homeless animals that enter our doors.

Though contributions are still vital for continuing operations, we work hard to profitably manage the Mitchell Thrift store and Veterinary Care Center operations to funnel net income into the 'Adoption' sector. With the help of experienced Board Members and volunteers, the Mitchell Center Thrift Store is enjoying the reputation of being the most fun, best place to shop for almost anything in Aiken, while appreciating the fact that it's a store "Where Shopping Saves Lives." The net income from that store greatly helps to offset the 'Adoption Center' losses.

Our adjustments to financial tracking the previous year allowed us to have a clearer picture of how the three divisions of Shelter, Veterinary Clinic, and Thrift Stores perform; making us nimbler in fine tuning how each division operates. The Veterinary Care Center functions as both a high volume spay and neuter clinic and a public general practice clinic; in addition to its role in caring for our residents. The fact that it makes any net at all is certainly welcome.

We now employ three full time veterinarians and accompanying support staff to keep up with the demand for spaying and neutering and reaching clients who are unaccustomed to regular veterinary care for their animals.

The Veterinary Student Externship Program for 4th year students to do their clinicals with us is robust. Students from across the USA, England, Australia, and Scotland have all joined us for two- to three-week periods of time in which they improve their surgical skills, become exposed to shelter medicine, and shadow our doctors in client consultations. A wealth of experience is gained in their time with us. The program is currently booked through June of 2021.

Ruby and I would like to thank each and every one of you, whether you are a volunteer, staffer, financial contributor, member of the Board of Directors, or simply a caring citizen for your support of the Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare. Together we are most definitely making this a better world for all.



Barbara Nelson  
President and CEO  
SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare



SPCA Albrecht Center  
President and CEO  
Barbara Nelson and  
her companion, Ruby



## Celebrating the Life of Mr. Gary Albrecht

*January 5, 1933 - March 31, 2019*

Mr. Gary Alan Albrecht was a friend to all he knew, but especially the animals. Gary and his wife of 60 years, Virginia "Ginny" Albrecht, always held animals near and dear to their hearts. And, coming from a history of giving back to the weak, helpless and underserved, Gary and Ginny's love for Aiken's homeless and neglected animals and their involvement with the SPCA Albrecht Center came as no surprise.

From adopting numerous rescues to years of volunteering at shelters, their devotion to the prevention of animal abuse became a life-long commitment. Ultimately, Gary and Ginny realized their dream of being a part of a state-of-the-art, no kill animal shelter and provided significant funding to the capital campaign that resulted in the SPCA Albrecht Center's new facility. A facility which proudly bears his name.

Gary also served on the SPCA's Board of Directors, participated in yearly fundraisers (typically sporting a chef hat while serving up hot dogs), brought in donuts, provided monthly pizza days to SPCA staffers and spent time reading to the shelter dogs and cuddling the kitties.

Most notably, Gary personally called every donor that generously gave to the SPCA Albrecht Center - a tradition that is now carried on by the Board of Directors. Whether they gave \$5 or \$5,000, he simply called to say "thank you."

On March 31, 2019, we lost a dear friend to the animals and our staff. There are no words to describe what Gary meant to all of us at the SPCA Albrecht Center, but he remains a part of us every day here at the shelter, through every animal that is given a second chance.



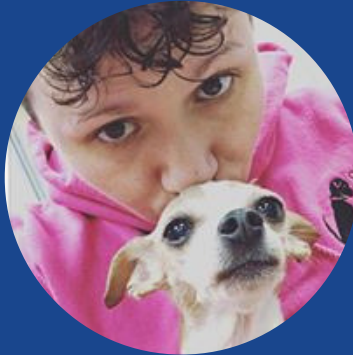
**"[Gary Albrecht]  
remains a part  
of us every day  
here at the shelter,  
through every animal  
that is given  
a second chance."**

## OUR LEADERSHIP

### *2019 Management Staff*



**Barbara Nelson**  
*President/CEO*



**Sybil Altman**  
*Shelter Manager*



**Sarah Neikam**  
*Operations Manager*



**Claire R. Grimes**  
*Communications Director*



**Emilee Heise**  
*Director of Events*



**Miranda Ewing**  
*Director of Volunteers*



**Herb Curry**  
*Facilities Manager*



**Julie Petersen**  
*Veterinary Practice Manager*



**Gordon McLeod**  
*Thrift Store Manager*

*"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."*  
-Anatole France

# 2019 LIFESAVING STATISTICS

## 2019 STATISTICS

**Dogs Cared For 539**  
**Cats Cared For 707**  
**Other\* Cared For 28**  
**TOTAL CARED FOR 1,274**

**Dogs Adopted 478**  
**Cats Adopted 606**  
**Other\* Adopted 27**  
**TOTAL ADOPTED 1,111**

## 2018 COMPARISON

**Dogs Cared For 572**  
**Cats Cared For 611**  
**Other\* Cared For 32**  
**TOTAL CARED FOR 1,215**

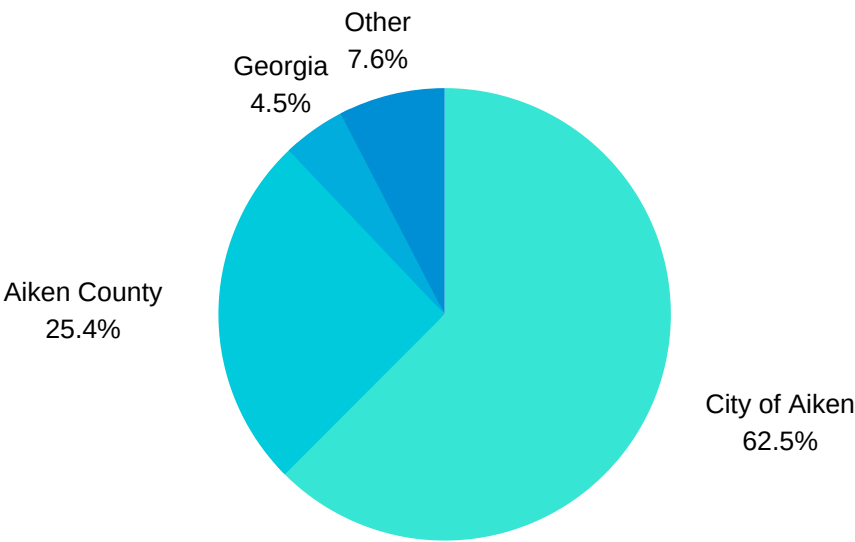
**Dogs Adopted 508**  
**Cats Adopted 473**  
**Other\* Adopted 31**  
**TOTAL ADOPTED 1,012**

*\*Other animals include guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, etc.*  
*\*\*'Adopted' stats do not include animals that transferred over into the new year.*  
*Please see the formula below to understand how we calculate Save Rate.*

$(1,111 \text{ Adoptions} + 116 \text{ Carried Over to 2020}) / 1,274 \text{ Total Intake} = \mathbf{96.31\% \text{ Save Rate}}$



## Origins of Animals Taken In



\*Other areas include Saluda, N. Augusta, Charleston, & Edgefield

## SPCA Dog Saves Adopter's Life

When Peggie Ergle adopted Sophie from the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare in February 2019, she had no idea that her new companion would soon save her life. Peggie had been widowed for the past couple of years and decided it was time she got a dog to keep her company. She came to the SPCA Albrecht Center and fell in love with a two-year-old, Jack-Russell mix.

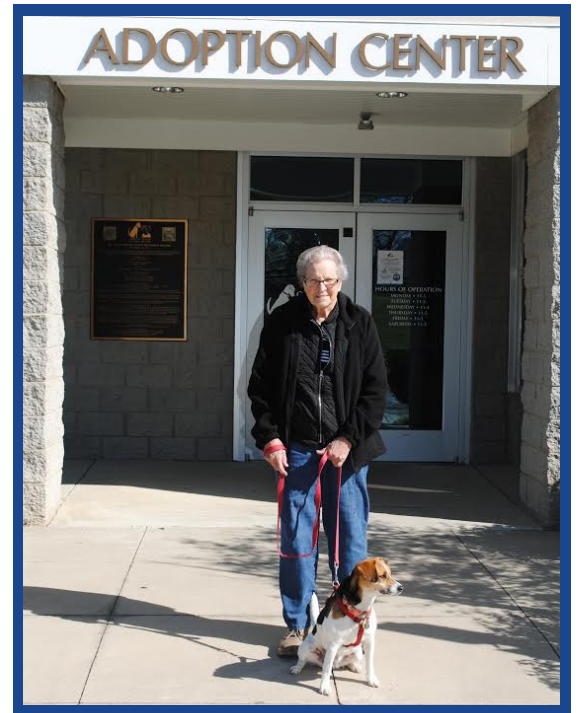
From the moment Peggie took Sophie home, Sophie settled right into a new routine. And, for the first month of their new lives together, everything was normal for the pair. But a month into their companionship, Sophie would do something that proved to her new mom how grateful she was for being adopted.

Early one morning, around 1 a.m., Peggie's power went out. She checked all around her house for the source of the outage, but could not find anything out of the ordinary. Peggie and Sophie went back to bed to deal with the issue in the morning. Not long after, Peggie heard a loud bang coming from her side door. At first, she thought it was a fire, but someone was trying to break in. The same people who, earlier that night, had cut her power.

Sophie sensed the intruder(s) right away, and chased them off down the street to their getaway car - the cops found the tracks when they arrived.

After 49 years in her home without any issues, Peggie couldn't believe what just happened, but one thing was clear - Sophie had just saved her adopter's life. Peggie is beyond grateful for her companion's loyalty: "She was out of bed and out of the house before I could get to the kitchen. She was gone and she took off after them. If it wasn't for her, there's no telling what they would have done to me. I know she saved my life."

Peggie has now added plenty of security to her home, including her trusty companion Sophie. The two are now safe and sound, and living a beautiful life together.



**"If it wasn't for her,  
there's no telling what  
they would have done  
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saved my life."**



# VETERINARY CARE CENTER

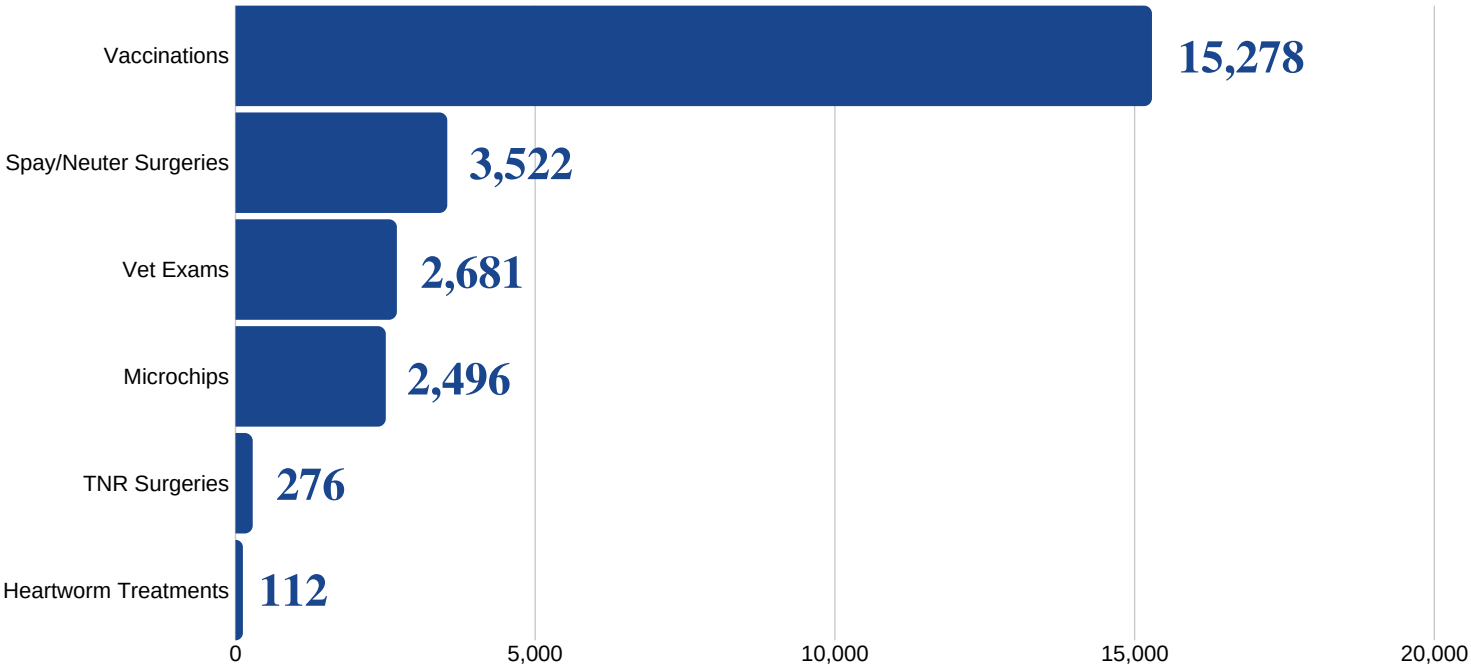


**Julie Petersen**  
*Veterinary Practice Manager*

**In 2019, we introduced a new Veterinary Practice Manager to the compassionate team in the Veterinary Care Center**

The SPCA Albrecht Center's Veterinary Care Center opened to the public for general practice in the Fall of 2015. The mission of the Care Center is to provide for the welfare of both abandoned and personal pets, who otherwise would not be able to receive quality veterinary care. From vaccinations to spaying and neutering to veterinary treatment, the SPCA's Vet Care Center provides the community's animals with the best possible care at affordable prices. We take pride in the quality care and customer service we offer.

## 2019 Vet Care Center Statistics



\*Stats include shelter animals and personal pets treated by the Veterinary Care Center.

## STUDENT EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare is more than an animal shelter. It is a place of learning about behavior and respect of animals' lives, the people who love them and those who want to help them. We are unique in that our Veterinary Care Center serves as a platform for fourth-year students to study shelter medicine, hone surgery skills and shadow their teachers, our vets, as they practice in general medicine for the public.

The SPCA Albrecht Center hosts nine veterinary students throughout the year for this competitive two-to three-week training period. Students from across the USA, England, Australia and Scotland have all joined us for this unique opportunity in which they improve surgical skills, become exposed to shelter medicine, and shadow our doctors in client consultations, at no cost to the student.



**The program is  
currently booked through  
June 2021**

**Students are given the opportunity to further their education with opportunities like:**

- Admissions and discharging of patients with staff
- Examinations of clinic and shelter animals with the veterinarians
- Treatment of patients with staff
- Assisting in anesthetizing patients for surgery
- Assisting in surgical preparation and surgery as needed
- Socializing shelter animals under the direction of our Adoption Coordinator
- Assisting with Phideaux University animals
- Assisting in feeding and walking animals as needed
- Performing lab blood tests and fecal parasite identification

## Cat Adoptions at the Thrift Store



*Photo by Lindsey Hodges,  
Aiken Standard*

In November of 2019, the Mitchell Thrift Store added a cat enclosure, as an offsite location for cat adoptions and as a reminder to shoppers of our important mission.

Cats and kittens are finding their forever homes through adoption at the Mitchell Thrift Store.

The enclosure was sponsored by **Wayne Heath Automotive** and built by **Union Agener**.

## SPCA THRIFT STORE *Where Shopping Saves Lives*

The SPCA Albrecht Center's Thrift Stores are vital sources of revenue to support the operations of the SPCA's shelter. In 2019, with the success of the Mitchell Plaza Thrift Store since its opening in May 2018, the choice was made not to renew the lease at the Richland Avenue Thrift Store.

With the closing of this location, staff is focused on continuing the success of the Mitchell Plaza Thrift Store and growing the marketing efforts to spread awareness of the store and its overall mission: to help save the lives of the homeless animals at the SPCA Albrecht Center.

In 2019, the Mitchell Thrift Store also introduced a monthly "Second Saturday Sidewalk Sale," in which shoppers find special deals on select items. These sales typically double revenues for those days.

The SPCA Albrecht Center continues to host two yearly Thrift Store parties at the Mitchell Store, which draw approximately 200 supporters and shoppers, and raises nearly \$10,000 in ticket sales, donations and night-of sales.



Thrift Store supporters and shoppers enjoy an evening of special deals, drinks, food and music at the Store's spring Thrift Store Party.

## FUNDRAISING FOR THE PETS

### *Expanding Our Reach Through Events*

The SPCA Albrecht Center hosts numerous events throughout the year to raise additional funds for the homeless animals in our care, while bringing together supporters, donors, staff, board members, volunteers and newcomers. These events are important in raising awareness about who we are and what we do for the area's companion animals.

In 2019, we focused our efforts on growing our two Thrift Store parties (spring and winter) and our popular Yappy Hour events. We also introduced the new 'Cats on the Mat' cat yoga experience, with the help of Sarah Acord from Aiken Yoga.

In addition to onsite SPCA Albrecht Center events, we participated in community events to help spread our lifesaving mission and reach potential adopters and supporters. In 2019, staff and volunteers participated in 35 hours of offsite adoptions at Aiken's PetSmart and Petco locations with adoptable animals. Further, in partnership with the City of Aiken, the SPCA Albrecht Center volunteered at and supported local events, such as Touch A Truck and Christmas in Hopelands.

In an effort to teach the younger generation about animal welfare issues and animal shelters, the SPCA Albrecht Center hosted approximately 10 area schools for field trips to our facility. The students learned about how an animal shelter operates, where we get our animals, how we care for these animals and how they, themselves, can do their part to help the community's homeless animals. The students also spent time with the SPCA's adoptable pets, helping socialize them for future adopters.



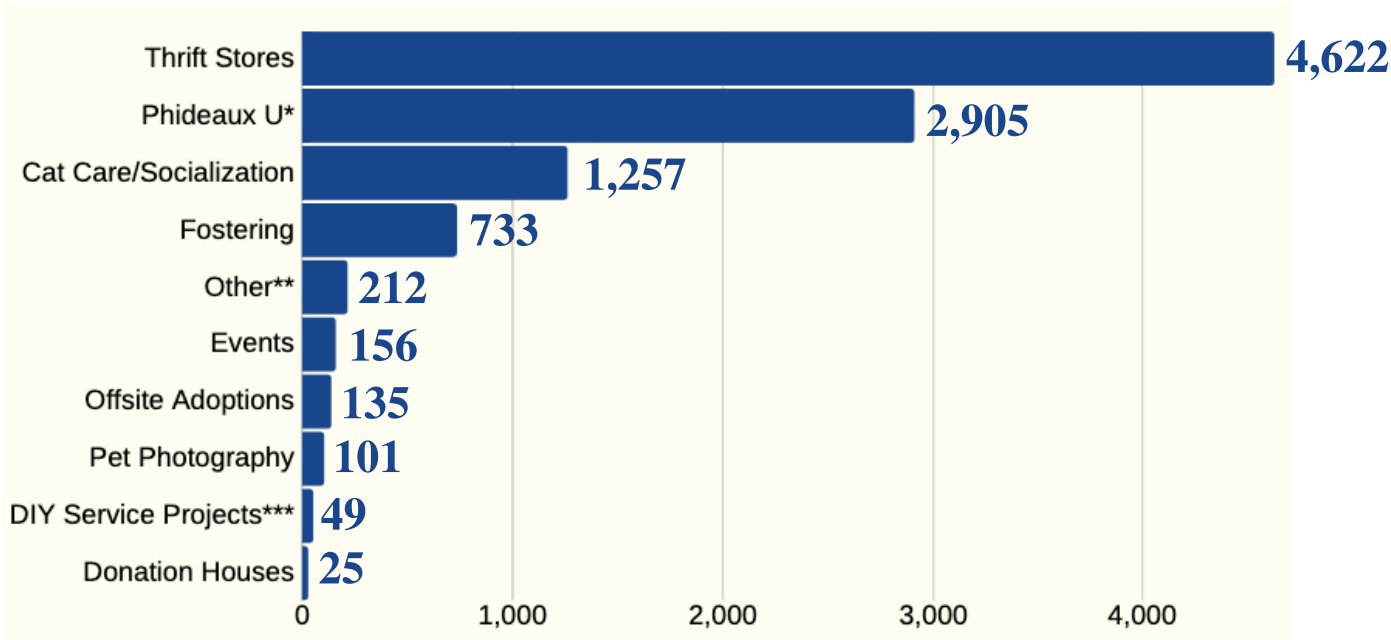
# VOLUNTEERING FOR THE ANIMALS

In 2019, our incredible volunteer team of 205 active volunteers, generously contributed over 10,195 hours of service to help the SPCA Albrecht Center care for the homeless animals in their care. These hours equate to approximately five full-time employees. With only a small group of paid staff, our volunteers are vital in ensuring our animals receive the best care. Whether our volunteers are working onsite at the shelter directly with the animals, or offsite at the SPCA Thrift Store, every second of their generously given time makes a world of difference to our organization and the animals.



205	76	10	10,195
Active Volunteers	New Volunteers	# of Volunteers per Day	Total Hours Given

2019 Volunteer Hours by Assignment



\*Phideaux University includes Read & Relax, dog walking, training and enrichment

\*\*'Other' hours include volunteer orientation, Vet Care Center greeting, admin support and unspecified

\*\*\*DIY Service Projects include creating items and toys for the shelter animals and coordinating donation drives



## Bem Vindo, Union Agener!

In October of 2019, Union Agener, a local animal health pharmaceutical plant paid a special visit to the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare for a 'Day of Service.' Before this visit, with the coordination of SPCA volunteer and supporter, Susan Birt, the team at Union Agener built the cat housing enclosure for the Mitchell Thrift Store (see page 12).

On their 'Day of Service,' Union Agener came to the SPCA Albrecht Center with their CEO (Uniao Quimica), Señor Fernando de Castro Marques, who came all the way from Brazil to visit his company. The team spent an entire day building benches for the facility's outdoor space, doing some much-needed landscaping and visiting with the homeless shelter pets in our care.

**Thank you, Union Agener!**



## Governor McMaster Visits the SPCA Albrecht Center

Governor Henry McMaster and his wife Peggy are animal lovers. Peggy serves on the Board of Directors of Pawmetto Lifeline in Columbia, SC and they share their home with a rescue Bull Dog named Mac.

The SPCA Albrecht Center is a member of the South Carolina Animal Welfare Coalition; a group of professional animal welfare administrators who educate and provide common sense solutions for our local and state elected officials to consider. It is encouraging and constructive that the majority of our Aiken delegation and the Governor himself listen and act in a proactive manner to improve the quality of life of animals and our community.

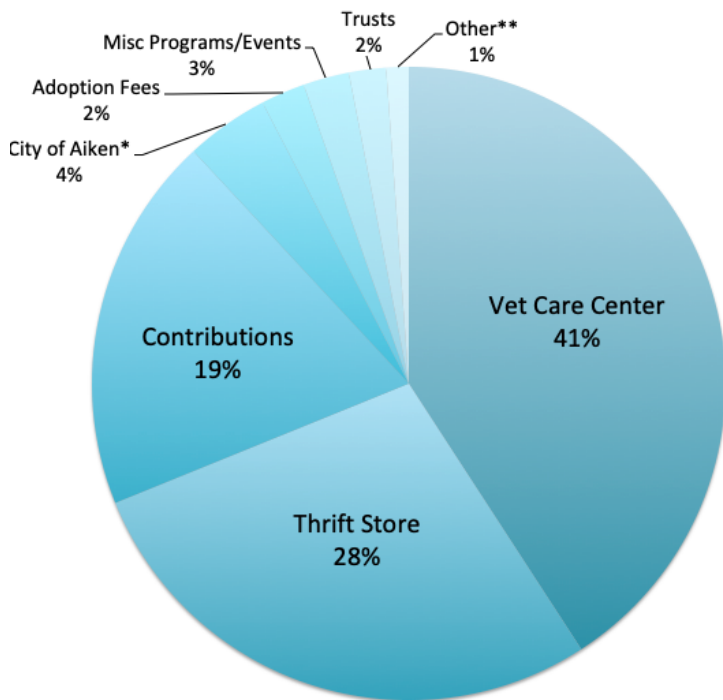
When Senate Bill 105, an act that addressed many subjects, including requiring Magistrates to have instruction on issues concerning animal cruelty, more expedient transfers from shelters to rescues for young litters, allowing out-of-state veterinarians to help during state-declared emergencies, and improvements to the distribution of the state-funded spay/neuter grant system, was signed into law; Governor McMaster chose to leave the state capital and have the ceremonial signing at the SPCA Albrecht Center. He and Peggy were greeted by our staff, a ferret named Bruce, and lots of dogs and cats. Local lawmakers, city officials, and grateful citizens filled the Marr Education and Training Center for the event, which was highlighted with an extra special laugh when Ruby, herself a former shelter puppy, stood up and kissed the Governor.



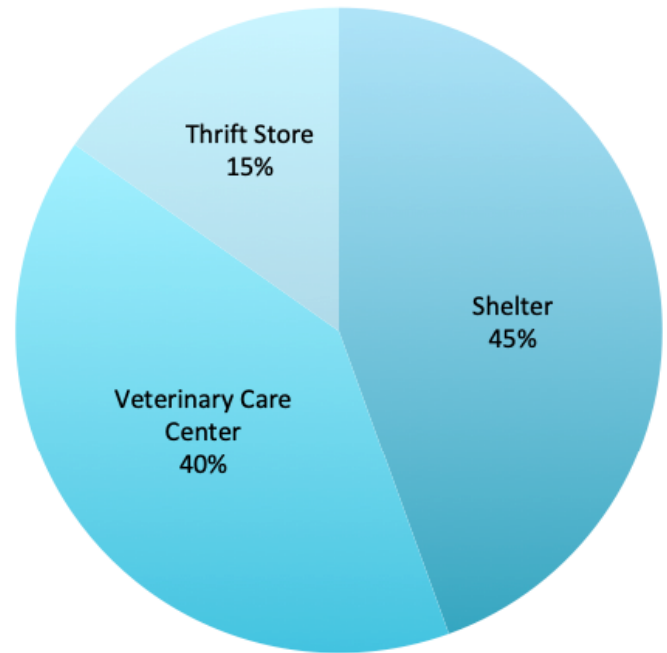
# 2019 FINANCIALS

## *Every Dollar Saves Lives*

### 2019 REVENUES



### 2019 EXPENSES



### 2019 REVENUES

Vet Care Center	\$919,012	40.1%
Thrift Store	\$630,366	28.0%
Contributions	\$433,368	19.3%
City of Aiken*	\$ 95,623	4.3%
Misc Programs/Events	\$ 52,916	2.4%
Adoption Fees	\$ 50,736	2.3%
Trusts	\$ 42,589	1.9%
Other**	\$ 25,751	1.2%

**TOTAL \$2,250,361**

### 2019 EXPENSES

Shelter	\$992,239	44.5%
Vet Care Center	\$899,127	40.3%
Thrift Store	\$339,333	15.2%

**TOTAL \$2,230,699**

The 10,195 hours of volunteer service, if it were paid at \$8.00 per hour (U.S.A. minimum wage is \$7.35 per hour), would have resulted in an extra expense of \$81,560.

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEER TEAM!**

\*The City of Aiken does NOT fund SPCA operations.  
City of Aiken revenues are reimbursements for the care and veterinary treatment of the animals taken in through the City of Aiken.

\*\*'Other' revenues include additional reimbursed expenses.



## LEGACY SOCIETY PROGRAM

The SPCA Albrecht Center's Legacy Society program honors those who have made documented bequests in their wills or other planned gifts in support of the SPCA Albrecht Center's mission. Joining the Legacy Society insures the long-term viability of the shelter by adding a stable stream of endowment income dedicated to meeting the needs of our community's companion animals.

### Thank you to our Legacy Society members:

Renee Alexander  
Angela Bari and Art Stremm  
Russell and Carol Brinkman  
Elizabeth Carey  
Randy Georgemiller and Nico Gozal  
Mary Guynn  
Andrea Hippely  
Jeff and Betsy Minton  
Barbara Nelson

Cyndy Niland  
Dan Raley  
Jane Rice and Brian Bess  
Cynthia Steinmetz  
Lynn and David Smith  
Jack Wetzel  
Tom and Arlene Weyl  
Hugh and Wendy Williams



If you are interested in becoming a Legacy member,  
contact Barbara Nelson, President and CEO:

[CEO@LetLoveLive.org](mailto:CEO@LetLoveLive.org)

[www.LetLoveLive.org/Estate-Planning](http://www.LetLoveLive.org/Estate-Planning)



# 2020 EVENTS

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**

**Cat Yoga**  
11 am - 12 pm

**Tuesday, May 12, 2020**

**Thrift Store Party**  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Saturday, May 30, 2020**

**Dog Wash**  
9 am - 12 pm

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

**Yappy Hour**  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Saturday, June 27, 2020**

**Dog Wash**  
9 am - 12 pm

**Wednesday, July 15, 2020**

**Yappy Hour**  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Saturday, July 18, 2020**

**Cat Yoga**  
9 am - 12 pm

**Wednesday, August 12, 2020**

**Yappy Hour**  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

**Yappy Hour**  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Saturday, October 17, 2020**

**Cat Yoga**  
11 am - 12 pm

**Tuesday, November 10, 2020**

**Thrift Store Party**  
6 pm - 8 pm



# We Need You!



199 Willow Run Rd  
Aiken, SC 29801  
803.648.6864  
SPCAVetCare.org



199 Willow Run Rd  
Aiken, SC 29801  
803.648.6863  
LetLoveLive.org



1589 Whiskey Rd  
Aiken, SC 29803  
803.226.0255  
LetLoveLive.org

## Saving Lives Since 1935



*DONATE TODAY & SAVE A LIFE!*

**[www.LetLoveLive.org/Donate](http://www.LetLoveLive.org/Donate)**

*The SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare  
is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 non-profit organization.*