

SHELTER TAILS



Captain
Adopted September 2020

2020: A Year Like No Other

Bam Bam's Lucky Break

Captain's Voyage

From the CEO

Dear Friends,

It's difficult to put into words how grateful we are to our community for showing up and standing with Woods Humane Society through the rollercoaster of challenges we faced this past year.

When animals came to us helpless and alone in a time of national crisis and uncertainty, YOU SHOWED UP to adopt them. Not only did our puppies and kittens find homes; so did our seniors, our animals with medical needs, our shy pets and our bonded pairs... they ALL got adopted—2,472 in total!

When our community needed help to care for their pets due to lost jobs and cut incomes, YOU SHOWED UP by donating food and supplies to our Pet Pantry, undoubtedly helping many pets stay safely in their homes.

Despite an ever-changing landscape and non-stop challenges, our amazing volunteers SHOWED UP and found new ways to be there for us all year long. They logged 13,419 hours doing everything from sewing face masks to cleaning and sanitizing surfaces. And foster families generously made space for 487 animals in need of extra TLC, including tiny sick kittens, terrified terriers and injured dogs and cats.

And when we had to cancel almost all of our fundraising events, facing a significant financial deficit, YOU SHOWED UP. From individual checks to online Wiggle Waggle sponsorships; from kids' lemonade stands to community donation drives; from our staff-made pet portraits fundraiser to our first-ever virtual auction, the community rallied behind us so we could weather the storm.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for SHOWING UP for us, no matter what came our way this year. With your support, we will continue to save and improve the lives of as many dogs and cats as we possibly can. Because, as we all witnessed in 2020, these animals certainly SHOW UP for us, providing a crucial comfort and vital bright light in dark and scary times. Shall we never underestimate the power of an animal's unwavering love as it will carry us through difficult days and remind us of the power of the simple joys in life.

Sincerely,



Neil Trent
Chief Executive Officer



Neil and Rosie

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Dr. Jo Campbell

2020: A Year Like No Other

With your support, we pivoted into the unknowns of 2020 and continued offering community services for pets and their people, in addition to thousands of adoptions.



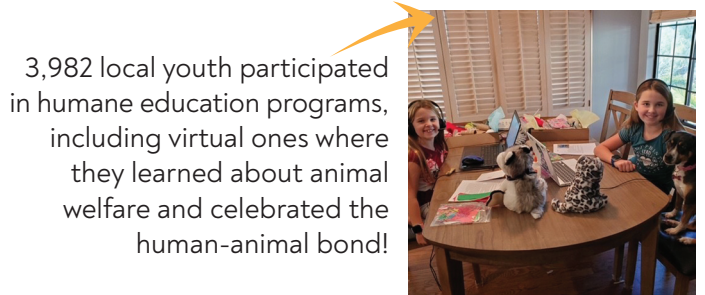
When circumstances demanded it, we created our first 24-hour neonatal kitten nursery to make sure the needs of our most fragile kittens were met.



We transitioned to an appointment system to enable safe and distanced adoptions as well as adoption counseling.



To continue to reduce overpopulation, our medical team safely performed 4,870 spay/neuter surgeries, both for our resident animals and for the public.



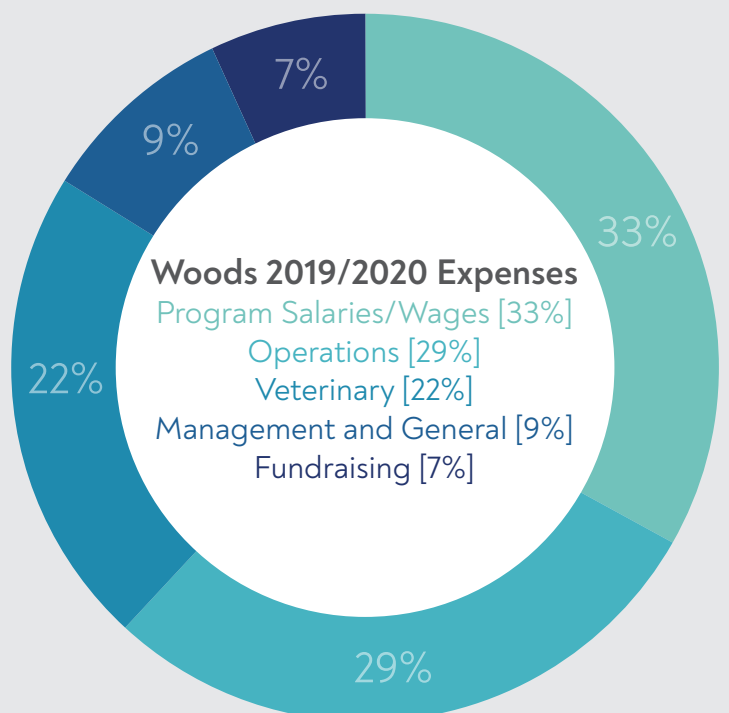
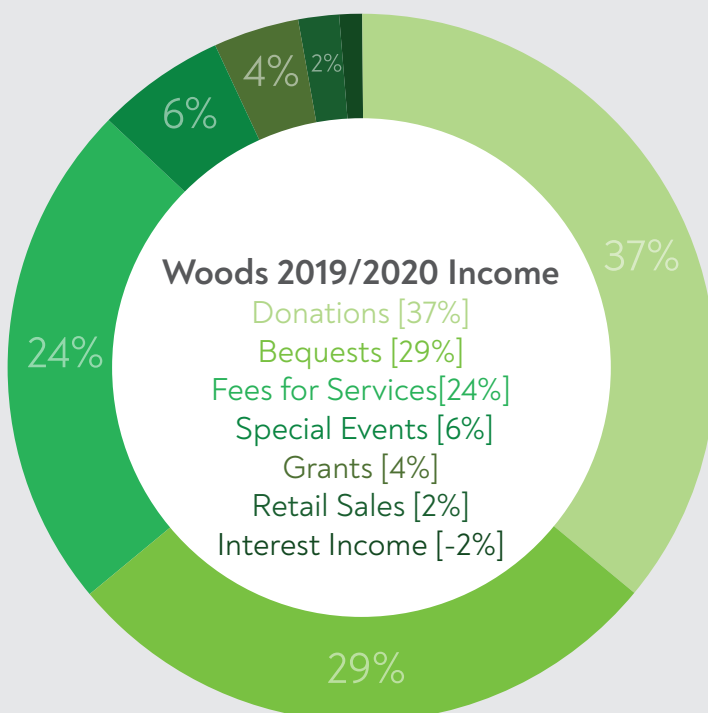
3,982 local youth participated in humane education programs, including virtual ones where they learned about animal welfare and celebrated the human-animal bond!



In a new online store, we sold Woods face masks and yard signs to encourage the community to stay safe and "pawsitive"!



Our Wiggle Waggle Walk went online with a virtual race and distanced community walks and runs to unite in our love for pets, from afar.





Bam Bam's Lucky Break

In the summer of 2020, Bam Bam, an adult brown tabby cat, limped into a feral cat colony monitored by local community cat caretakers Mike and Deb Dill. They could see from a distance that Bam Bam's ear was not tipped (the indicator that a feral cat has already been spayed or neutered), and that he had a severe leg injury that was causing him to drag his front leg behind him.

If they could manage to trap him, the Dills planned to bring Bam Bam to Woods Humane Society's Tip It Tuesday, a program funded by Project M.E.O.W. (Method of Ending Overpopulation at Woods) that provides ultra-low-cost veterinary care for unowned community cats (feral or friendly). He would likely need his leg amputated at that point, which would mean he couldn't be returned to the colony like the more than 50 other cats the Dills have painstakingly trapped, neutered and returned (TNR). As a three-legged cat, Bam Bam would no longer be safe outdoors. His future was uncertain.

A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing

It took the Dills an entire month, but they finally were able to bring Bam Bam to the Daphne Fahsing Spay & Neuter Clinic located at Woods Humane Society North County in Atascadero. Little did they know, the injured boy who was untouchable in the wild was secretly a sweetheart.

When Woods' veterinary staff peeked in at him in the trap, the silly kitty rolled over and purred. They immediately scheduled Bam Bam for his much-needed leg amputation and enrollment into the Woods adoption program. After a couple of weeks of TLC, Bam Bam was adopted by a loving family. He now gets to live out a happy, pain-free life in the safety and comfort of a home.

Bam Bam's fairytale-like story would never have been possible without concerned citizens like the Dills and the support of Project M.E.O.W. The fund cuts the cost of alteration, a rabies vaccination and ear-tipping to just \$25, so that local cat lovers can afford to help the hundreds of community cats in our county. Left on their own, the situation would quickly snowball out of control.

A Big Litter Problem

Unaltered cats in the wild can produce two to three litters of kittens per year, averaging four kittens per litter. Woods North County Clinic Manager Alessandra Belloumini says that these unvaccinated, unowned kittens have a 75% mortality rate, many of them dying from preventable diseases. In this sense, she says, by altering and vaccinating community cats we are preventing needless kitten deaths.

In 2019, its first year, Project M.E.O.W. served a whopping 854 community cats. In 2020, the fund enabled 794 cats' surgeries. All told, the program has saved approximately 10,908 kittens from a life of suffering.

"We have received a lot of positive feedback from local feline rescue groups and families who are grateful for our subsidized spay, neuter, and preventive care services for cats who would have likely gone without care," says Dr. Leslie Sklena, DVM, Woods Director of Veterinary Services.

But kitten season is coming up again, and the need is still urgent. Woods hopes to spay or neuter as many as 1,000 community cats this year, if funding is available. If you would like to support the cause to help cats like Bam Bam, donate directly to the Daphne Fahsing Spay & Neuter Clinic or online at WoodsHumane.org/ProjectMEOW. For more information about Project M.E.O.W., to schedule an appointment or to rent a trap, please call 805.464.5034.



VETERINARY CARE, WITHIN REACH

THE DAPHNE FAHSING SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC CELEBRATES TWO YEARS OF LOW-COST, ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

After two years of operation, the Daphne Fahsing Spay & Neuter Clinic located at Woods Humane Society North County in Atascadero has made great progress toward its goals to provide easier access to more affordable medical services for both companion animals and community cat populations. The efforts have paid off in reducing overpopulation and increasing the overall health and well-being of dogs and cats in the community.



Goal: Reduce Overpopulation and Suffering

- 6,430 spay/neuter surgeries
- 1,913 community cat spay/neuter surgeries
- 2,727 estimated litters prevented
- 10,908 estimated feral kittens saved from a life of suffering



Goal: Offer the Best Shelter Medicine Possible

- More efficient and prompt medical care and quicker path to adoption for cats in our Woods North County shelter



Goal: Provide Local Pet Owners Easier Access to Healthcare

- 11 public vaccine clinics
- 718 animals received affordable preventive care
- Create a stepping stone between the community and local veterinarians
- Reach people and pets who live in remote areas



Goal: Support the Community

- Help local groups and individuals passionately dedicated to helping homeless cats
- Advise pet owners regarding behavior support or further medical care
- Encourage pet owners to establish ongoing relationships with veterinarians



Goal for 2021: 1,000 community cat spay/neuter surgeries!

Help us reach our goal by donating to directly to the Daphne Fahsing Spay & Neuter Clinic or online at WoodsHumane.org/ProjectMEOW.



CAPTAIN'S

Captain was alone and adrift.

A fluffy white giant of 115 pounds, the stray Great Pyrenees mix had been found in the Central Valley and spent much of his life in and out of shelters and foster care before coming to Woods Humane Society. Understandably, he was aloof and slow to trust strangers when he arrived.

But gradually, over what turned out to be 17 months, he began to get to know the Woods staff and show his true personality: goofy with friends, but alerting us to strangers—whether squirrel or human.

Constant nagging ear infections kept him on and off the adoption floor for much of the spring and summer of 2020, and when he was well, he couldn't seem to find a family prepared for all the love he had to give. He was huge (taller than most people when standing with his front paws on your shoulders—his favorite way to say “Hello”); he was not housebroken; his urge to chase small animals ruled out any family with small kids or pets; and most people balked at the mountain of glorious white fur that he left behind wherever he went.

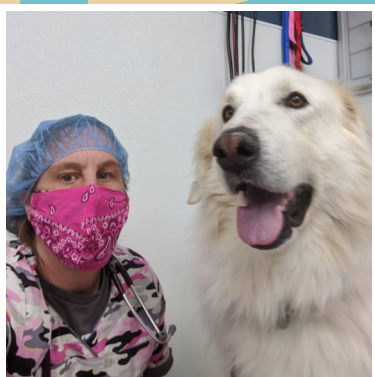
But Captain had a smile that could light up the room, and the Woods team knew that he would find his way to the right family eventually.

Finally, we got a call from an interested couple, Bruce and Brigitte Falkenhagen, who said they had a lot of space for, and experience with, big dogs. Before they arrived, we also heard from The Dodo, a dog adoption website, that they wanted to do a feature story on him.

And just like that, after months of waiting, the tides changed for Captain.

Not only did the Falkenhagens fall in love with Captain, the internet did, too.

“World Famous!” Bruce Falkenhagen exclaims proudly, months later, noting that 2.6 million people have followed Captain's story on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, and he's received fan mail from Russia, China, Japan, Africa, and all over the U.S. “He's fortunate and we're fortunate, and it's all because of Woods.”



VOYAGE

FROM WOODS TO
WORLD FAMOUS

It turned out that Captain was more of a charmer than we'd realized. He got along well with Guinnie, their small dog. He was surprisingly gentle and sweet with the Falkenhagens' grandchildren who rolled their toy trucks right over an unbothered Captain during the holidays. The dog that supposedly had only lived outdoors, was actually perfectly potty-trained. And after a few trips to the veterinarian, his terrible ear infections had cleared up.

But, according to his new family, there was one thing about Captain that proved true: his joy is infectious. "He is always as happy as can be," Brigitte Falkenhagen says. "He's young, he's fun and it's great to see how he acts and how loving he is."

She explains that some people might be reluctant to give such a wildcard dog like Captain a chance, but she believes a dog's behavior reflects his family's. "It's up to you and how you show him the love," she says.

Clearly, Captain agrees. Lounging on the floor in



Bruce's office, he was cool as a cucumber while we spoke on the phone, not a care in the world.

Bruce, who now lovingly calls Captain his retirement buddy, and regularly sends the Woods staff dispatches from Captain's adventures on the good ship "HMS Pyrennee," feels good knowing that the larger-than-life dog has the run of their house, and room to spread his legs on their daily walks on the property. Captain also gets to be with his people all day long, occasionally reminding Bruce to stop working by rolling around and unplugging the printer in his office.

Of course, he still sheds, and occasionally steals their shrimp dinner right off of the counter, but the Falkenhagens just laugh at their big, sweet companion.

No, Bruce says, Captain will not be coming back to Woods. "He's just worked out great. He adopted us, we didn't adopt him. We are so happy."

For a smile (and some happy tears), watch Captain's famous video at [WoodsHumane.org/adoptedanimals](https://www.WoodsHumane.org/adoptedanimals).



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 Tiffany Tisdale
 Karen Tolleshaug
 Marie Trapesonian
 Neil Trent
 DeAnn Troutner
 Christina Troxel
 Uncorked Wine Tours
 Kristina Unruh
 Mary Jo Unruh
 John and Sherill Van Dam
 Melinda Van Horn
 John Vandenberg
 Mona and Nick Velasco
 George Vensko
 Vero Mortgage
 Village Vintage
 Renee Vinson
 Laurel and Ron Viola
 Vista Del Rey Vineyard
 Jody Vollmer
 Randall and Jamie Voss
 Walsh Engineering
 Linda Wargo
 Jennifer Watson
 MaryWeaver Meagher
 Regis Weber
 Joel Wedrick
 Maureen Wellard
 Ginger Wesner
 Stephen White
 Maddie White and Jake Rubin
 Dawn Whitridge
 Jim and Deborah Whitson
 Jodi and Mark Whittaker
 Bill and Lola Widner
 Phyllis Will
 Bob and Dodie Williams
 Aaron Williams
 Margaret Wilson
 Arlene Winn
 Shirley Winter
 Rex and Janice Wolf
 Susan Wright
 Jody Wright
 Lisa Yahrling
 Karen Yates
 Jocelyn Yonemoto
 Stuart and Susie Young
 Lucia Young
 Catharine Young
 Glenn Zaretska
 Lynda Ziegler
 Mark and Laura Zohns

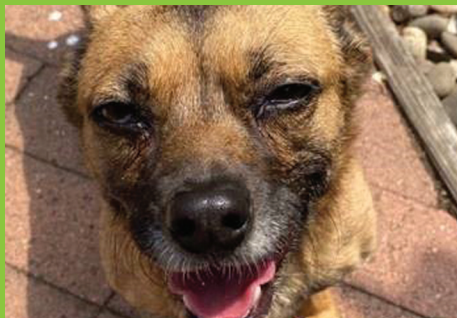


Top Nine of 2020

Along with our cover model Captain, these are just a few of our team's top adoption highlights of 2020—animals whose dreams came true... thanks to YOU!



AVALON
Adopted April 6



VIOLET
Adopted August 12



SIMBA & STELLA
Adopted November 20



JADE
Adopted August 10



MYA
Adopted December 27



GHOST
Adopted November 12



SCOTTY & CHESTER
Adopted July 10



MATER TATER
Adopted October 14



FIFI
Adopted October 3

HELP US DRIVE ADOPTIONS!

The more you share and comment, the faster our cats, dogs, puppies and kittens find loving homes. And learn more about our amazing, life-changing adoptions at WoodsHumane.org/adoptedanimals.

Join us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



**Woods
Humane
Society**

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Our Mission

To serve, protect and shelter homeless companion animals; To place animals in humane environments; To promote responsible pet ownership, provide humane education and reduce pet overpopulation; To celebrate the human-animal bond.