

ORPHAN KITTEN CLUB 2020

A YEAR IN REVIEW



orphankittenclub.org

Orphan Kitten Club
PO Box 633
Spring Valley, CA 91976

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Photography by Hannah Shaw and Andrew Marttila.



Dear friend,

What a year! In spite of all the challenges of rescuing animals during a global pandemic, our team persevered and managed to have our most impactful year ever. In 2020, we saved more babies, sterilized more community cats, and provided more grant funding than ever before—and that's all thanks to your generous support! I want you to know that you played an important role in the life of every single animal you see in the pages to follow. We truly hope that as you look through the images, you can take pride in the lifesaving impact you made in 2020. We are all in this together, and we are so grateful to have you as part of our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Hannah Shaw".

Hannah Shaw
Founder



NURSERY

This year we rescued more kittens than ever before, including numerous medical cases. Here are a few of our most memorable club members from 2020!

James

James is a unique boy who was born with undeveloped back legs. While he was in our care he overcame his mobility challenges and learned to get himself up ramps and carpeted steps. He can also run if you give him a little boost with your hand! This heartbreaker found the perfect family who is committed to helping him live his very best life.



Archie

Archie may have had a rough start, but now he's off to a very bright future! This little guy was rescued from a pretty awful situation where he sustained a human bite wound on his neck. He was also covered in ringworm, but our team took care of all his medical issues. Archie quickly recovered and blossomed into the most rambunctious little tabby!



Spinach & Chickpea

Spinach & Chickpea are singletons from different litters who ended up becoming best friends and were adopted as a duo!



Spinach AKA Iron Girl has had quite a journey so far! This little beauty was diagnosed with a congenital condition, pectus excavatum. Her breastbone was misshapen and pressing inwards, limiting the space for her heart and lungs to grow. At 3 weeks old she received an emergency surgery to move a piece of bone that was pointing towards her heart. After her life-saving procedure she had to wear a chest plate for several weeks. She also has a medical condition called eyelid agenesis. This means that her eyelids are not fully formed. Luckily she did not require surgery for this condition!

Chickpea is a chunky tuxedo kitten (#thiccpea) with an exaggerated overbite and charming personality. As a baby her lower canines would collide with the roof of her mouth making it difficult for her to eat and potentially could cause damage to her soft palate over time. Her adopter brought her in for a dental appointment when her adult teeth erupted at 6 months of age. We are happy to report that the doctor did not feel that she would need to have her adult canines removed!

Little Lucy & Andy

We rescued Lucy and her litter as teeny-tiny newborns. She and her siblings all appeared to be growing normally, however at about 3 weeks old Lucy's weight plateaued. There was just something different about this pint-sized tabby. After consulting with the medical team at UC Davis, we moved forward with doing bloodwork for a very rare condition in kitten, hypothyroidism. It turned out that Lucy did in fact have this condition, and we worked to regulate her thyroid with the help of medication and frequent bloodwork. Lucy may require medication twice a day, but she is thriving in her forever home!



NURSERY UPGRADE



KITTEN NURSERY

DESIGN BY KATE BENJAMIN
FALL 2020

Our Kitten Nursery is getting an upgrade!
We are happy to announce that OKC has moved to a permanent property, with a state-of-the-art neonate nursery and even a separate clubhouse entirely dedicated to rescuing babies in need!



SATELLITE NURSERY

In an effort to increase our lifesaving capacity, we have fully outfitted an offsite kitten nursery to mirror our nursery headquarters! By doubling the amount of space, supplies, and caregivers dedicated to saving kittens' lives, we are able double our impact in San Diego. Our satellite nursery provides around-the-clock care to orphaned neonatal kittens in a safe and loving environment.



SATELLITE NURSERY COORDINATORS



Yige with Anna



Justin with Merida

Denim

Denim was rescued as a sickly preemie, and raised in our Satellite Nursery. His “fever coat”—which can occur in kittens who have overcome illness—gave him a stunning, smoky look!



BABY CLUB

A close-up photograph of a small, pink piglet and a small, tabby kitten lying together on a bright pink, shaggy rug. The piglet is on the left, facing upwards with its mouth slightly open. The kitten is on the right, curled up and sleeping with its eyes closed. The piglet has a small dark mark on its forehead. The kitten has dark stripes on its fur.

Orphan Kitten Club loves all animals! We are actively expanding our programs to better serve orphans of various species. When we have the ability to help a baby animal in need, we offer our nursery services whether the animal is a kitten, puppy, or even a little piglet.

Billie, Charlie & Marlie



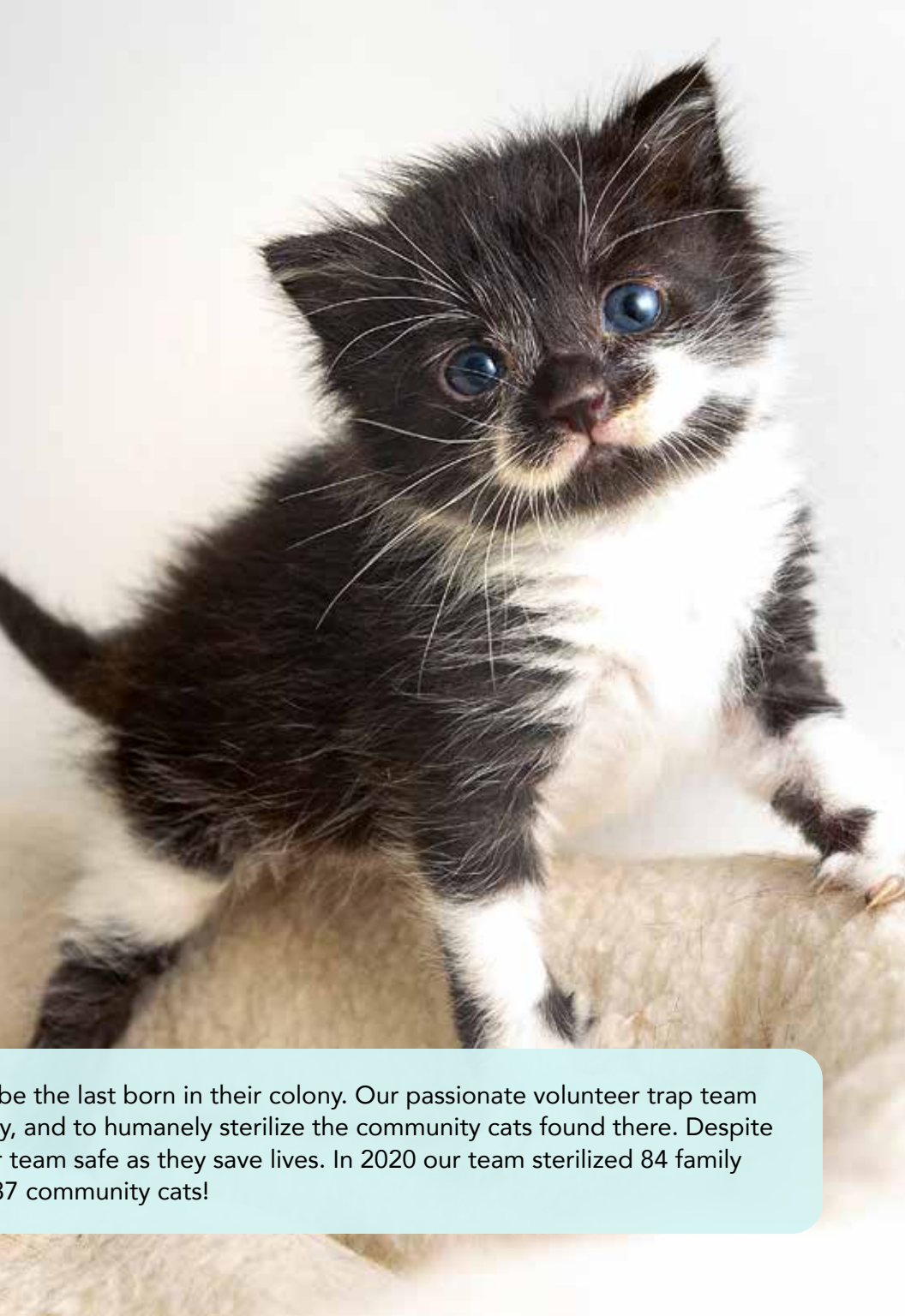
Billie was only one day old when he was brought to a local wildlife center along with a crew of wild ducklings. The wildlife center immediately realized that Billie was a domestic duckling, and needed to be placed into a rescue where he could eventually find a forever home. When we took Billie into our nursery program, we put the word out to local veterinarians and shelters that we were searching for more duckling friends to help Billie have a family. That's when Charlie & Marlie showed up! These two slightly older ducklings needed rescue, and came to complete the flock!

Hugo



Hugo was rescued from behind a restaurant when he was just days old. After growing into a beautiful, healthy young pig, he was provided with a permanent home by Farm Animal Refuge, where he is best friends with Baby Club graduate, Emmett!

FULL CIRCLE TNR



The Full Circle Program is our promise that the kittens we rescue will be the last born in their colony. Our passionate volunteer trap team works diligently to identify the birthplace of every kitten in our nursery, and to humanely sterilize the community cats found there. Despite the effects of COVID, our team developed new protocols to keep our team safe as they save lives. In 2020 our team sterilized 84 family members of our nursery kittens, and provided services to a total of 237 community cats!

This year we partnered with our local shelter to collaborate on their community cat program so we can make an even bigger impact. Our volunteer team assisted 153 community cats through the animal shelter's Return to Field program!





MIGHTYCAT GRANT PROGRAM

In 2019 we launched our Mightycat Program, the first grant program in the world to specifically fund programs for neonatal kittens. We are proud to share that we have now provided more than \$450,000 in targeted grants throughout the United States. We currently support over 30 strategic partner organizations who are dedicated to saving kittens' lives! These organizations are eligible to apply for kitten-focused programmatic funding during our bi-annual grant cycles. We invest in impactful, innovative, fiscally responsible organizations, and we fund everything from kitten kits to kennels and incubators, from emergency surgeries to kitten-focused staff positions.

Amazing Anza

from The Little Lion Foundation





Dublin

This delightful little creamsicle was rescued by our partners Feline Rescue. Dublin had severe trauma to her left eye and it was determined that once she was 2-months old, the eye would need to come out. However, at 6-weeks old, things changed when an ulcer on her eye started to rupture. After being evaluated that afternoon it was determined that she needed same-day emergency eye removal surgery. OKC covered the full cost of her procedure, enabling Feline Rescue to continue their life saving efforts in Minnesota.



Tiny Turnip was one of the many kittens who were recently rescued by our partner organization Lifeline Animal Rescue in Atlanta Georgia. Lifeline was contacted about a nearby cat hoarding situation and they stepped in to assist. There were numerous kittens found at this property who were in need of immediate veterinary care. We knew we wanted to support their rescue efforts with a Mightycat Grant. Orphan Kitten Club covered the cost of 18 medical exams, eye medications, antibiotics and 4 enucleations for the kittens from this property. We are so proud to work with this impactful shelter!



COVID RESPONSE

When the pandemic hit, animals needed to get out of shelters and into foster homes as quickly as possible—and we knew we needed to offer immediate assistance to our Mightycat partners to make that happen. We held an emergency grant cycle, and granted over \$65,000 to 18 different nonprofit organizations across the country to help them provide appropriate foster care to kittens too young to be adopted. We are beyond grateful to our incredible donor base who have made this emergency grant cycle possible!





This sweet tabby from our partner organization San Antonio Pets Alive! is one of the many kittens who benefited from our COVID-19 emergency grants.

COVID-SAFE ADOPTIONS



Orphan Kitten Club cares about the health and safety of our community. We also believe that animal rescue is an essential service. When the pandemic hit, we knew adoptions would have to continue in order for us to continue saving lives, so we created pandemic-friendly, no-contact protocol to ensure the wellbeing of all—our team, our adopters, and most importantly, our kittens!



THANK YOU



FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

