

ORPHAN KITTEN CLUB 2021

A YEAR IN REVIEW



orphankittenclub.org

Orphan Kitten Club
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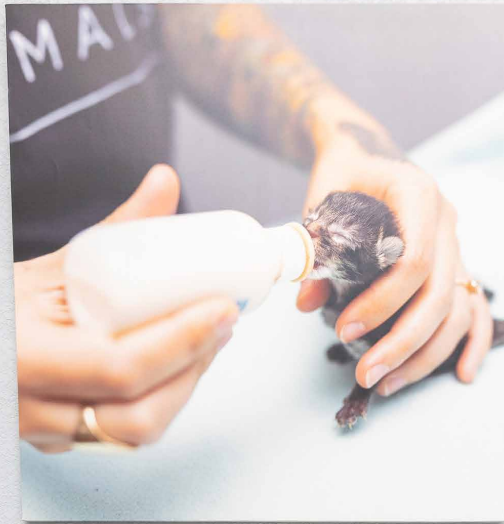
Photography by Andrew Marttila.



Dear friend,

Thank you for another incredible year of saving lives together! Your support brought hope to the lives of countless vulnerable neonates, and made a significant difference in advancing kitten care. I'm thrilled to share that 2021 was our most impactful year yet! In addition to expanding our local nursery in San Diego, we greatly increased our national impact by collaborating with more than 50 partner organizations all across the United States to innovate kitten programming and veterinary access. Looking through these pages, I am filled to the brim with gratitude. We have always dreamed of a brighter future for neonatal kittens, but thanks to you, that dream became a plan... and that plan became an action. Looking ahead to 2022, we want to thank you for allowing us to dream bigger—and plan bigger—to continue to change the world for the tiniest and most vulnerable felines.

Hannah Shaw
Founder

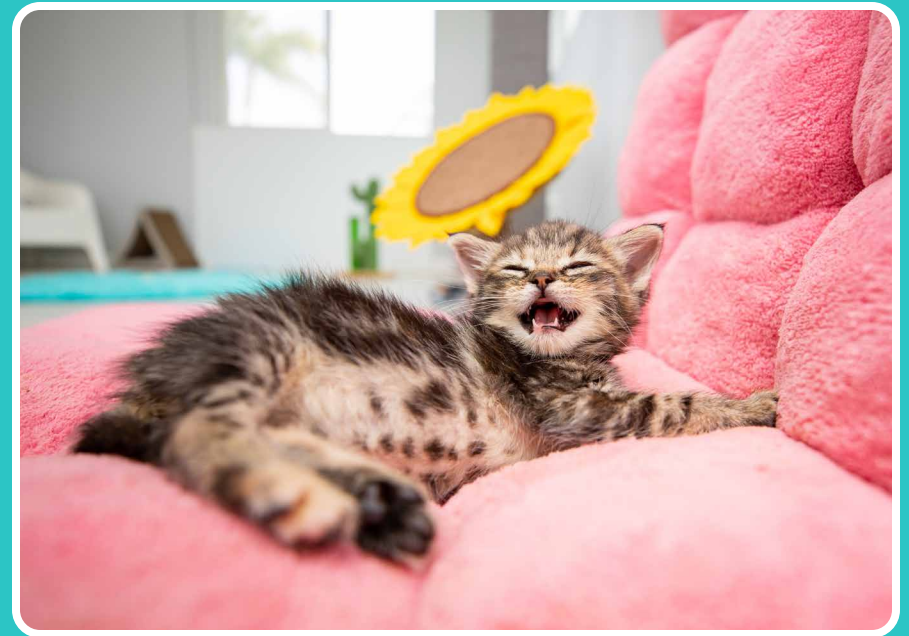
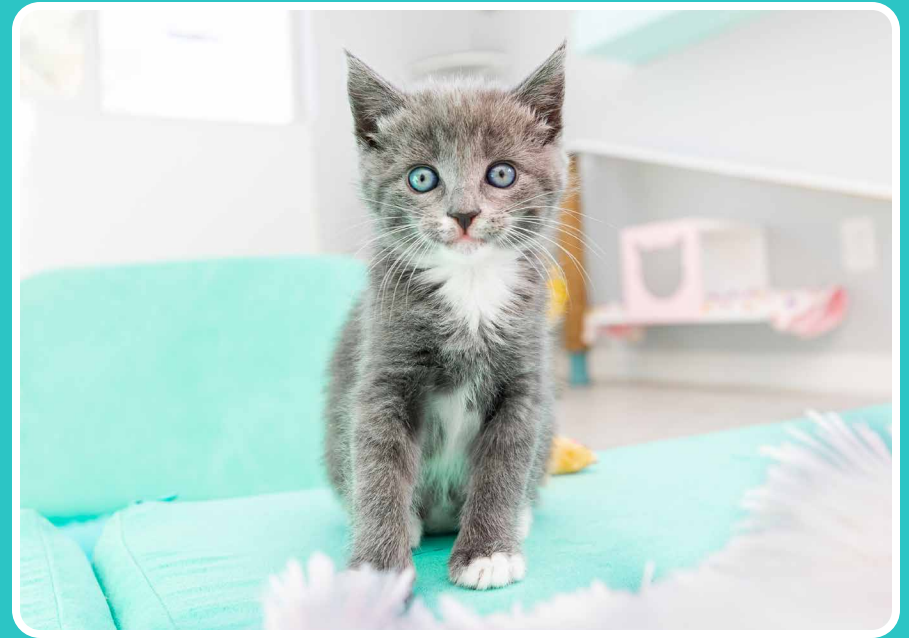


NURSERY

This year was our most impactful year yet! We saved teeny tiny neonates, spicy feral kittens, kittens in need of advanced medical care, and even a few moms with babies. Our newborn kittens are raised in our state-of-the-art neonate nursery, equipped with cozy incubators and everything needed to care for bottle babies.

THE CLUBHOUSE

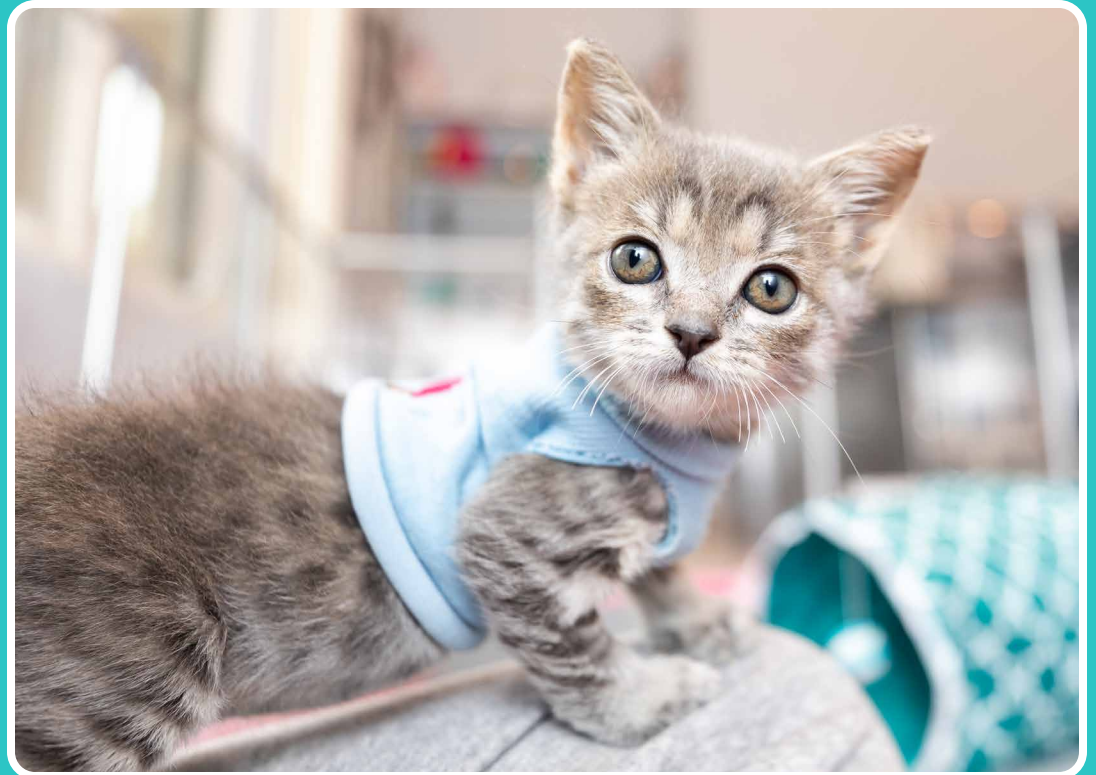
Once our kittens are fully weaned, they are able to graduate to our new socialization room! This interactive room was built specifically to engage and entertain kittens of this age group. In this room, they learn how to play, climb, and explore! In addition to our socialization room, the clubhouse has housing for moms and babies, feral kittens, and weaned kittens who require quarantine. We are so grateful to have this flexible space to help us on our mission to save lives!



Kale

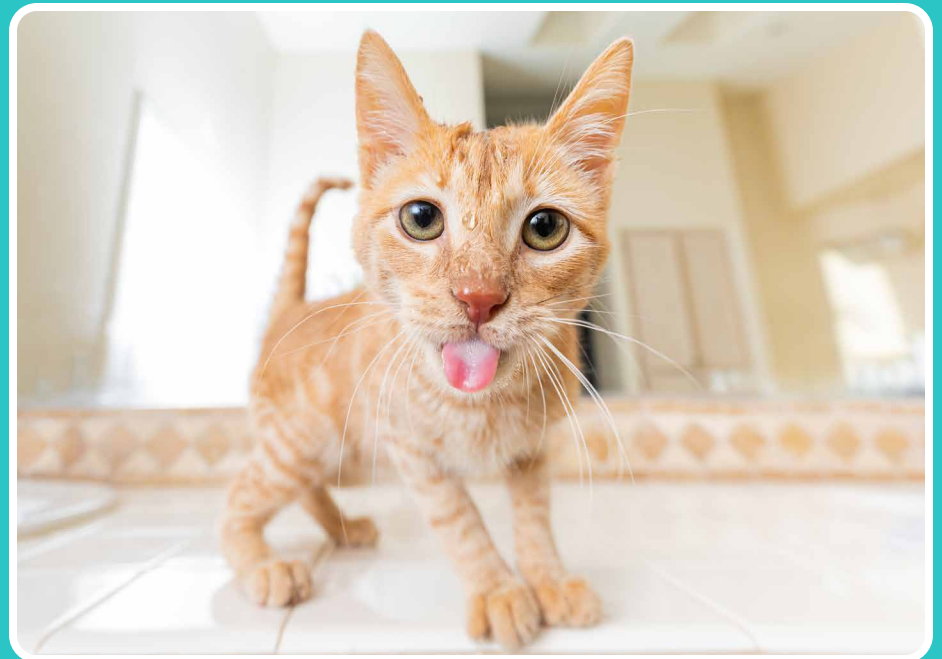


Kale is a special kitten who came to us with pectus excavatum, a congenital malformation of the chest that can be fatal for young kittens if not corrected. Kale's chest was flattened and restricting her lungs from filling with air. It was imperative that Kale receive an emergency corrective chest surgery. This procedure involved sewing into the bones of the ribcage and drawing them forward by attaching an external chest plate (like a shield of armor that the bones get sewn against.) This is a risky surgery that needs to be performed by an experienced veterinarian. Thankfully, our board member Dr. Rachell Wallach was able to successfully perform the surgery, after which Kale thrived in our care! While healing, she wore a tiny sock as a protective sweater. A few weeks later, she was adopted into her dream home!

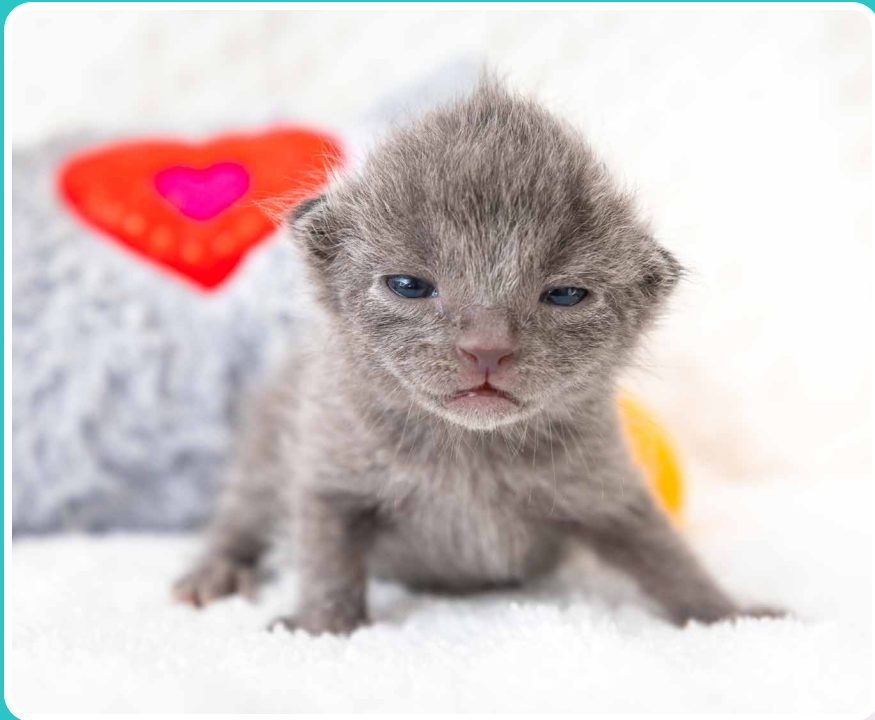


Ferguson Chimpv Tenderheart

Ferguson's case was one of the greatest challenges (and biggest rewards!) of our team's year in 2021. Since arriving as a newborn, Ferguson struggled with mysterious symptoms, which were eventually diagnosed as a severe kidney condition. We worked with top veterinary nephrologists to diagnose and seek treatment options for him, determined to give him the best chance possible. When we were sadly told that Ferguson would not likely live for more than a few weeks, our founder Hannah Shaw and team member Andrew Marttila decided to adopt him as a fospice cat so that he could know the love of a forever home. Through a combination of expert medical care, determination, and a lot of love, Ferguson is now thriving at 9 months old! We are so proud of this little man!



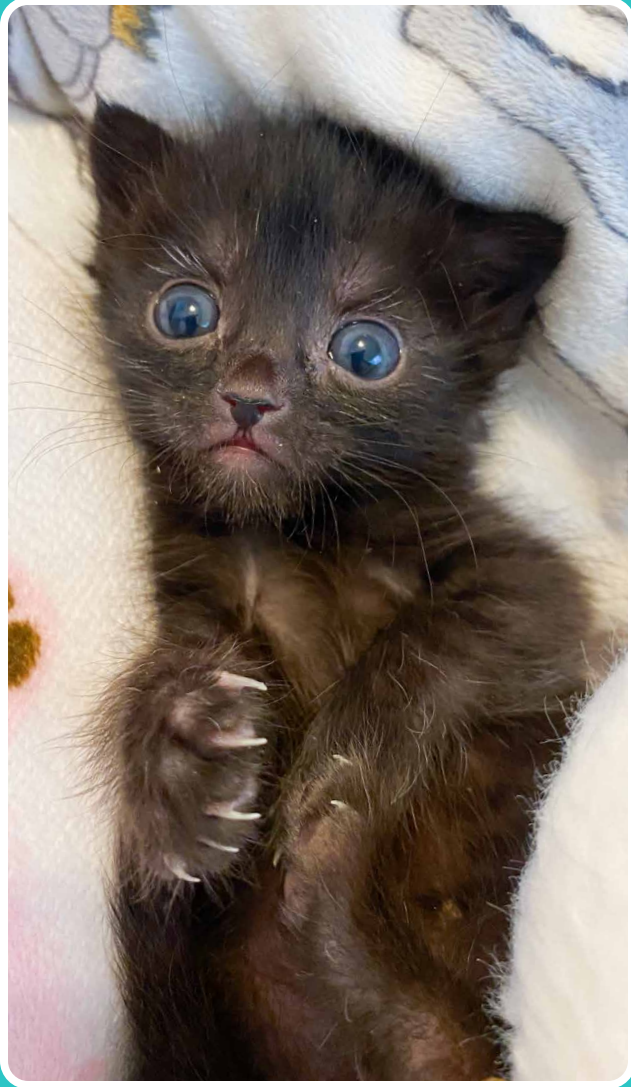
Baby Boo



Baby Boo came to us as a tiny, frail orphan who was significantly smaller than her brothers and sister. At less than one pound, she was suffering from a gastrointestinal ileus, which required emergency hospitalization. We worked with our board veterinarian and an incredible local hospital to develop a treatment protocol that would save her life even with her small size. Weeks later, she was a healthy young cat who finally started to catch up with the others... and she was adopted with her sister!



SATELLITE NURSERY



This year our Satellite nursery helped us increase our lifesaving capacity. Yige and Justin, our Satellite Nursery Coordinators, fostered numerous orphan kittens and even a few puppies! One of their most memorable foster kittens was Lanikai. Around the time of rescue, Lani had sudden onset of septic arthritis, resulting in swelling on her front left limb. Lani was brought to the veterinary hospital, where she received around-the-clock IV antibiotics and finally started to feel better and bear weight on her leg. In the weeks that followed, Lani continued antibiotics and was seen by our orthopedic specialist who helped her stay strong, healthy, and pain-free. Over time Lani grew into a beautiful young cat who can run, chase, and climb like any other kitten. She even befriended a foster puppy! Unfortunately, because Lani's growth plates did not develop normally, the specialist believes that she will eventually need an amputation. Wanting to give her the best future ever, we found a loving foster-to-adopt home for Lani so that she can fall in love with her family as she awaits her future surgery, which we will provide. Kittens are so incredibly resilient, we have no doubt that Lani will adapt to life as a three-legged cat in no time! We are grateful able to provide the best care possible for our fosters because of your support.



*Lani with her
bestie Tammy*

A FEW OF OUR MOST MEMORABLE CLUB MEMBERS:



Giuseppe



Gi-Hun



Snowpea



Phat Jack



Carrie



Spud



Mr. Peep

MIGHTYCAT

Our Mightycat program is the only grant program in the world to specifically focus on funding the protection of kittens. In 2021 we expanded our Mightycat network to more than 50 partner organizations across the United States. 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. Our goal is to spark national innovation in the kitten care that is provided in shelters and rescues. Here are a few memorable grant recipients from this year!

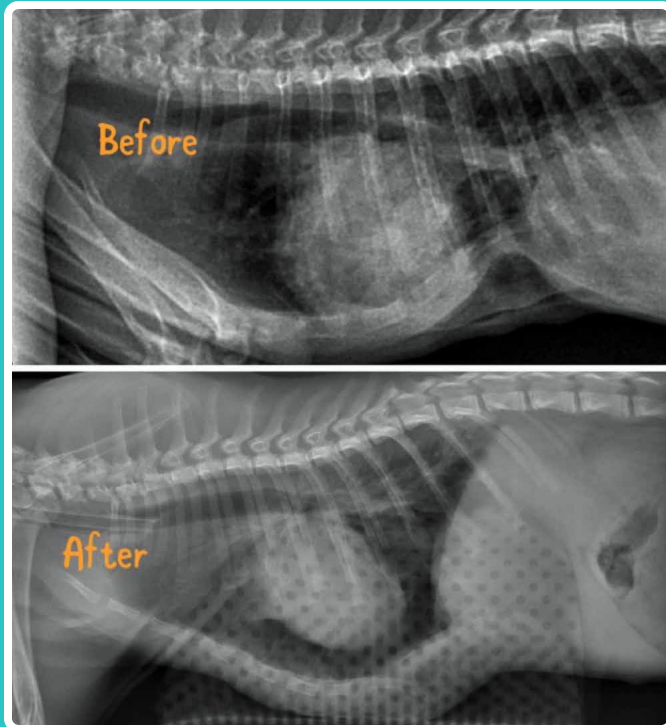
Duchess

Little Duchess was rescued from a hoarding situation by our partner, Stray Paws Animal Haven in El Monte, CA. Duchess was found in very bad shape and was brought to their wellness clinic where they realized she was severely impacted due to her inability to defecate. She was brought to a specialist who determined she had atresia ani, a congenital anomaly in which the anus is lacking the normal opening. Duchess was in need of a life-saving surgery. Orphan Kitten Club granted \$2,500 for her surgery, and now sweet Duchess has a fully functional kitten butt!



Tommy and Mohawk

Our partner organization Six Kittens Rescue in Bryan, TX reached out to us about two kittens, Tommy and Mohawk, who had the same medical condition: pectus excavatum. Orphan Kitten Club granted funding to cover the costs of both lifesaving surgeries to be performed by specialists at Texas A&M University. Tommy and Mohawk have since recovered beautifully from their procedures!



Gizmo

Gizmo was found by a good Samaritan near a dam in Door County, WI. Tiny Gizmo's leg was so badly tangled in a fishing net that the finder was unable to cut it loose. He was brought to our partner, Wisconsin Humane Society, who stepped in to help. Sadly, his rear leg was so severely damaged it was unable to be repaired. The WHS vet team tended to his wounds, stabilized the injury, and reached out for assistance. Orphan Kitten Club granted funding to cover the cost of his amputation, and now Gizmo is thriving as a three-legged feline!



PROGRAMMATIC GRANTS



Benjamin

Newborn Kitten Rescue
Ringbusters Grad



In 2021 our expert advisory board thoughtfully selected targeted grants that spark innovation in kitten programming. We funded numerous programs including lifesaving kitten care supplies, state-of-the-art kitten housing, medical care programs, and kitten-focused staff positions.

NEWBORN KITTEN RESCUE

Our partner Newborn Kitten Rescue in Scottsdale, AZ was granted \$9,000 to help fund their "Ringbusters" program. This innovative program impacts one of the most at-risk groups of neonates: those who are suspected to have ringworm. Ringworm is a common fungal infection, but sadly, many kittens are euthanized for this treatable skin condition. This funding was used to purchase the supplies need to safely care for and treat kittens with ringworm. NKR has been able to help this population with a team of specially-trained fosters who can tend to these kittens' unique needs.

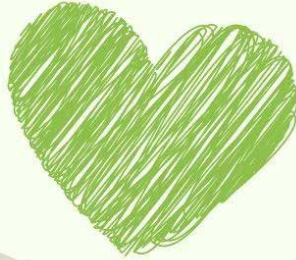


HAIR LOSS CAN BE
ONE OF THE FIRST
CLEAR SIGNS OF
RINGWORM

KNOLL & SAARINEN
ARE GETTING
MEDICATED BATHS
REGULARLY!

ROGUE VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

**We are proud to be a
Mighty Cat Partner!**



Rogue Valley Humane Society in Grants Pass, OR received a \$25,000 grant to launch their new kitten nursery. This funding helped to create a new onsite neonatal kitten nursery and fund the purchase of life-saving kitten supplies and equipment. The new nursery space has expanded their capacity to provide specialized care for multiple litters of neonates. This grant has also allowed RVHS to dedicate more staff and vet tech time to attend to critical kittens and ensure that they are providing the highest quality of care. We are so proud to partner with this organization to expand their efforts in having a self-sustaining kitten nursery.



FULL CIRCLE TNR

Orphan Kitten Club believes in ending the cycle of reproduction that leads to kittens being born outdoors—and ultimately orphaned or surrendered to a shelter. Recognizing that every kitten in our nursery had an origin story that began outside, we developed a unique Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program that specifically focuses on sterilizing community cats in the neighborhoods where our kittens are rescued. This year our team of dedicated volunteers worked in 14 different neighborhoods around San Diego to provide free spay/neuter services for community cats.



Ruthie's Colony

Ruthie was born into a large colony of cats in the neighborhood of North Park. Our volunteers worked with the feeders on the block where she was found to trap the unaltered cats in this community. There are some truly beautiful felines in this colony. We're convinced that this fluffy chocolate point is a distant relative of our little Ruth!



Pictured are three of our most active volunteers: Denise, Susan, and Dani.

BABY CLUB

Moving to a new permanent location has allowed us to open our doors to neonates of other species who are in need of care. In 2021 Orphan Kitten Club rescued more than just kittens—we also assisted neonatal piglets and puppies in need of specialized care!

Isa

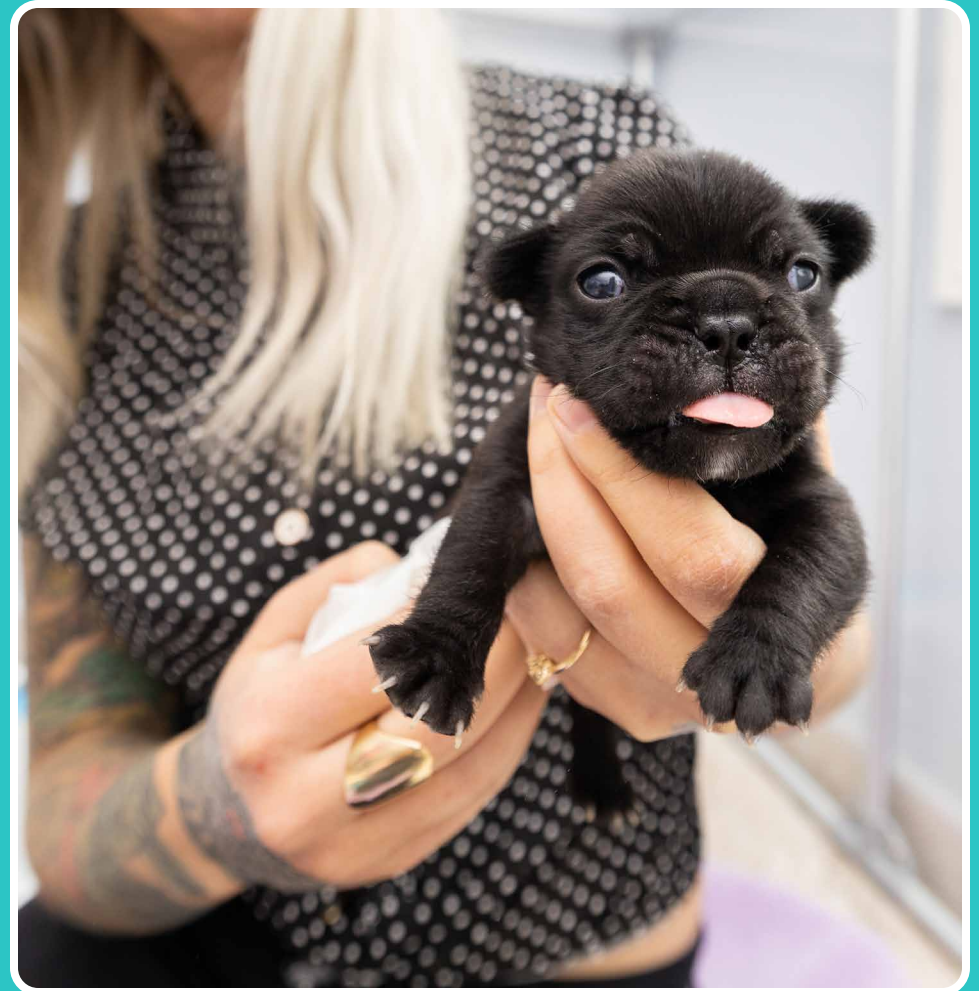
Isa was brought to us at just hours old, frail and in very rough shape. After weeks of overnight care, she began to thrive, and even became friends with Ferguson! She now lives as a happy, big pig at Loving Farm Sanctuary.



This year we cared for multiple litters of preemie and newborn puppies who needed intensive support. Without this level of around-the-clock care, these tiny pups would not have survived. We are so happy to offer our nursery services to help a baby animal in need, no matter their species.



*Martha was born prematurely and lost her mother during birth.
Now she's a happy, healthy 45 pound pup!*

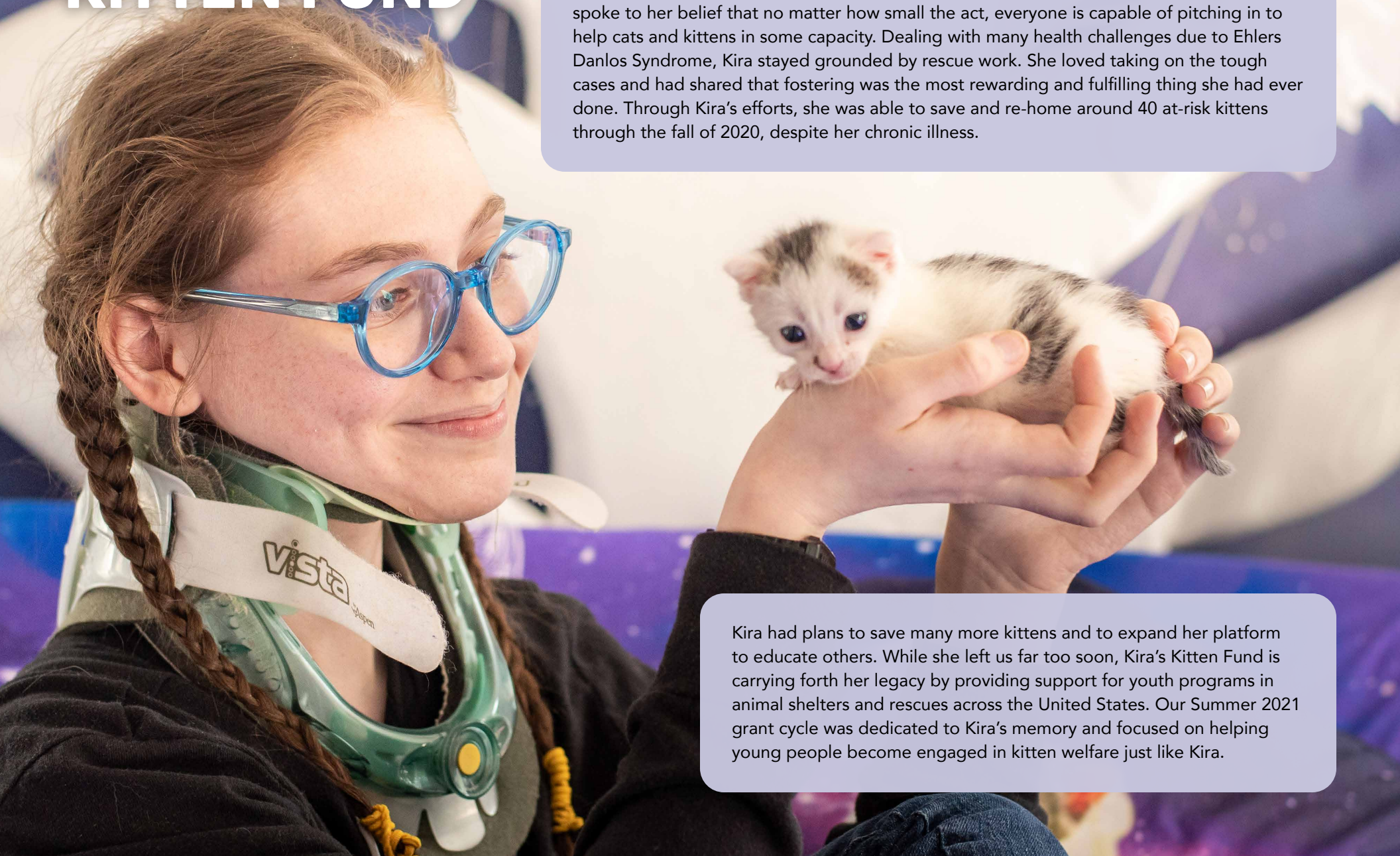


*Inigo needed to be tube-fed due to brachycephaly.
He always did a blep when stimulated to potty!*

KIRA'S KITTEN FUND

During summer 2021, we held a special grant cycle to honor a beloved community member who left us too soon. Kira Serisky was 14 years old in April of 2018 when she began her mission to save kittens and educate while doing so. Her motto "If I Can Do It You Can Too" spoke to her belief that no matter how small the act, everyone is capable of pitching in to help cats and kittens in some capacity. Dealing with many health challenges due to Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, Kira stayed grounded by rescue work. She loved taking on the tough cases and had shared that fostering was the most rewarding and fulfilling thing she had ever done. Through Kira's efforts, she was able to save and re-home around 40 at-risk kittens through the fall of 2020, despite her chronic illness.

Kira had plans to save many more kittens and to expand her platform to educate others. While she left us far too soon, Kira's Kitten Fund is carrying forth her legacy by providing support for youth programs in animal shelters and rescues across the United States. Our Summer 2021 grant cycle was dedicated to Kira's memory and focused on helping young people become engaged in kitten welfare just like Kira.



KATHRYN'S KITTEN KASA FOR KIRA

Our partner Laramie Animal Welfare Society in Laramie, WY received a grant to invest in the foster space of one of their most dedicated youth fosters, Kathryn. Kathryn is a 15-year-old superstar who volunteers her time helping LAWS in numerous ways, including fostering neonatal kittens. She is dedicated to helping kittens in their community and LAWS wanted to recognize her hard work by decking out her foster room called "Kathryn's Kitten Kasa for Kira." This grant purchased an incubator, playpen, formula, high-quality wet food, and other life-saving supplies.



“ My goal was to help to create a more functional space to do what I love to do: rescue the tiniest and most fragile kittens in need. So, I created a “Kitten Lady Nursery” and dedicated it to Kira, who was such a powerful voice for youth rescuers. So many people tell me that I can’t do things because I’m ‘just a kid,’ but I want to be seen like any other person who can do whatever they set their mind to. Kira felt similarly, she didn’t let her physical challenges or age get in the way. She knew what was really important and I do too. ”
–Kathryn

CLUB K.I.R.A.

We collaborated with our Georgia-based partner, Planned PETHood, to start a youth program called Club K.I.R.A (Kids Interested in Rescuing Animals). This program provides classes for different age groups of adolescents who want to learn how they can help animals. These classes offer bottle feeding demonstrations, interactive discussions about how they can get involved, and take-home materials outlining how they can help animals—especially kittens! We are so proud to support this program and inspire future animal advocates in this community and beyond.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





OKC graduates

