

ORPHAN KITTEN CLUB 2023

A YEAR IN REVIEW





Dear friend,

When I started Orphan Kitten Club in 2016, I never could have imagined the incredible journey to where we are today. From a humble dream of providing lifesaving care to kittens in one community, your support propelled us forward, empowering us to expand our reach year after year. Today, as a national leader for kittens, we're making waves from coast-to-coast, funding transformative kitten-focused programs in communities across America and truly moving the needle for the smallest and most vulnerable felines.

Orphan Kitten Club isn't just changing lives one kitten at a time—we are revolutionizing the kitten welfare system as we know it. Thank you for believing in our mission. Together, we are rewriting the story for kittens everywhere.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Shaw'.

Hannah Shaw
Founder

ORPHAN KITTEN CLUB

Orphan Kitten Club's mission is to build innovative programs that save the lives of the tiniest and most vulnerable felines. We believe every kitten deserves the chance to be a mighty cat. To date, Orphan Kitten Club has given over \$2.5 million to shelters and rescues in support of kitten medical care, program grants and research.

Blueberry

Blueberry's leg had a painful compound fracture with exposed bone. Orphan Kitten Club provided funds for amputation surgery and aftercare, allowing him to thrive and find a loving home.



Partner: The Little Lion Foundation, California

MIGHTYCAT GRANT PROGRAM

Orphan Kitten Club is the first and only grant provider in the world focused specifically on the neonatal kitten population. In 2023, OKC provided over \$700,000 in grant funding to 55 shelters and rescue organizations in 27 states, impacting the lives of thousands of vulnerable kittens.



Partner: Humane Society of Chittenden County, Vermont

MEDICAL GRANTS

Orphan Kitten Club medical grants provided over \$200,000 in emergency funding to support lifesaving veterinary treatment for 103 kittens from coast to coast.

Mulan

Mightycat Mulan underwent surgery after being diagnosed with pectus excavatum—a congenital malformation of the chest that can be fatal without surgery.



**THANKS
ORPHAN KITTEN
CLUB!**
#MIGHTYCAT

Partner: Rogue Valley Humane Society, Oregon

Cake Pop

Cake Pop was born with a rare congenital condition: her little legs ended with “upside down feet.” The spunky kitten underwent a series of surgeries and amputations thanks to Orphan Kitten Club funding, and made a full recovery as a Mightycat!

**I'M A
#MIGHTYCAT!**



Partner: Kitten Rescue Life, California

A close-up photograph of a very small, light-colored kitten with dark eyes and ears. The kitten is lying on a white, textured cloth and is being held by a person's hand. The kitten's front paws are visible, and it appears to be looking directly at the camera.

Banksy

Teeny tiny Banksy was the only kitten that survived in his litter and needed a 9 day hospital stay to recover from a severe case of pneumonia. He required tube feeding, oxygen, x-rays and a variety of medications to grow into a spunky Mightycat!

Partner: The Bitty Kitty Brigade, Minnesota

MIGHTYCAT PROGRAM GRANTS



Last year, animal shelters and rescues throughout the United States were granted over \$520,000 in essential funding to create innovative programs that support the tiniest felines. Orphan Kitten Club is outfitting shelters with kitten-focused supply kits, staff support, incubators, and infrastructure to increase lifesaving for kittens.

Orphan Kitten Club supported Pasadena Humane Society with funding to hire a Kitten Care Coordinator to increase the number of foster homes, supporting over 600 kittens last kitten season.

Monkey

Pasadena's foster kitten Monkey was treated for feline panleukopenia, a highly contagious and potentially fatal disease. Look at this munchkin's makeover!



Kitten-focused staff save lives!



Partner: Pasadena Humane Society, California





Wisconsin Humane Society in Milwaukee, Wisconsin used Mightycat grant funds to treat 64 ringworm kittens. Treatment is a lengthy and costly process involving topical treatments, medicated baths, and oral antifungal medications.

Using the funding from a Mightycat grant, Humane Society for Hamilton County in Fishers, Indiana purchased 5 incubators and neonatal kitten supplies for foster kits. The kits included scales, nebulizers, heartbeat simulators, heating stones, playpens, bottles, syringes, nipples, formula, disposable litter boxes, kitten beds and food.

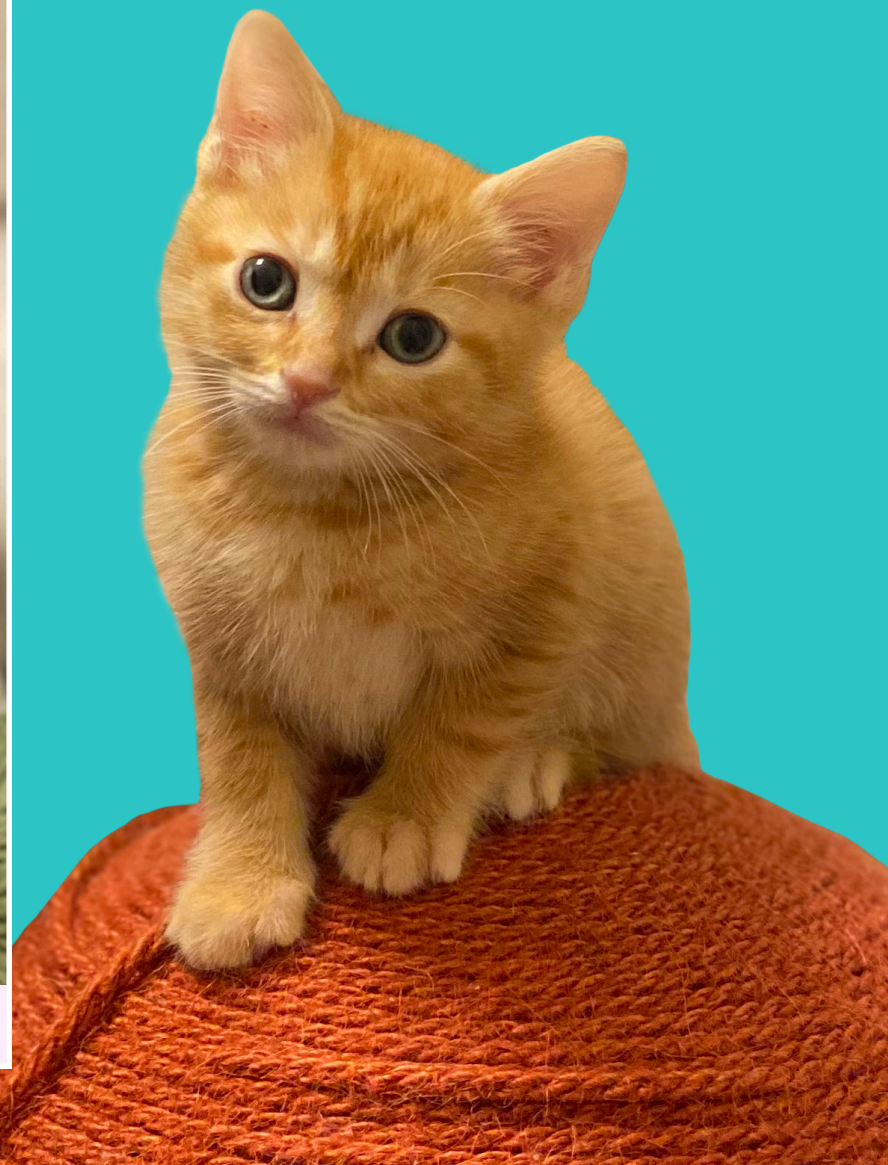


Partner: Humane Society for Hamilton County, Indiana



Partner: Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, North Carolina

Brother Wolf Animal Rescue in Asheville, North Carolina used their Mightycat grant to purchase foster supplies for ringworm treatment, eye medications, and kitten food.



Oliver

Lawrence Humane Society in Lawrence, Kansas received Mightycat funding to help support the salary of a new veterinarian dedicated to serving the needs of the neonatal kitten population.

Little Oliver arrived in their care so sick that he couldn't stand, breathe, or eat on his own. Oliver went to a foster home with an incubator funded by Orphan Kitten Club and it saved his life! Five weeks later Oliver emerged from foster care healthy and so adorable that he was adopted within hours!



Partner: Lawrence Humane Society, Kansas

Orphan Kitten Club's grant to Indy Humane in Indianapolis, Indiana provided specialized care and essential medical treatment to panleukopenia-positive kittens in foster homes, increasing the number of kittens served by 33% and improving kitten survival rates.



**THANKS
ORPHAN KITTEN
CLUB!**
#MIGHTYCAT

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Partner: Indy Humane, Indiana



Partner: Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society, Pennsylvania



At Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in Pennsylvania, Orphan Kitten Club funding was used to add two part-time staff members during kitten season. The roles were solely focused on supporting kitten foster placement and care. A total of 677 kittens under the age of 12 weeks were impacted!

Kuro



Partner: Kauai Humane Society, Hawaii

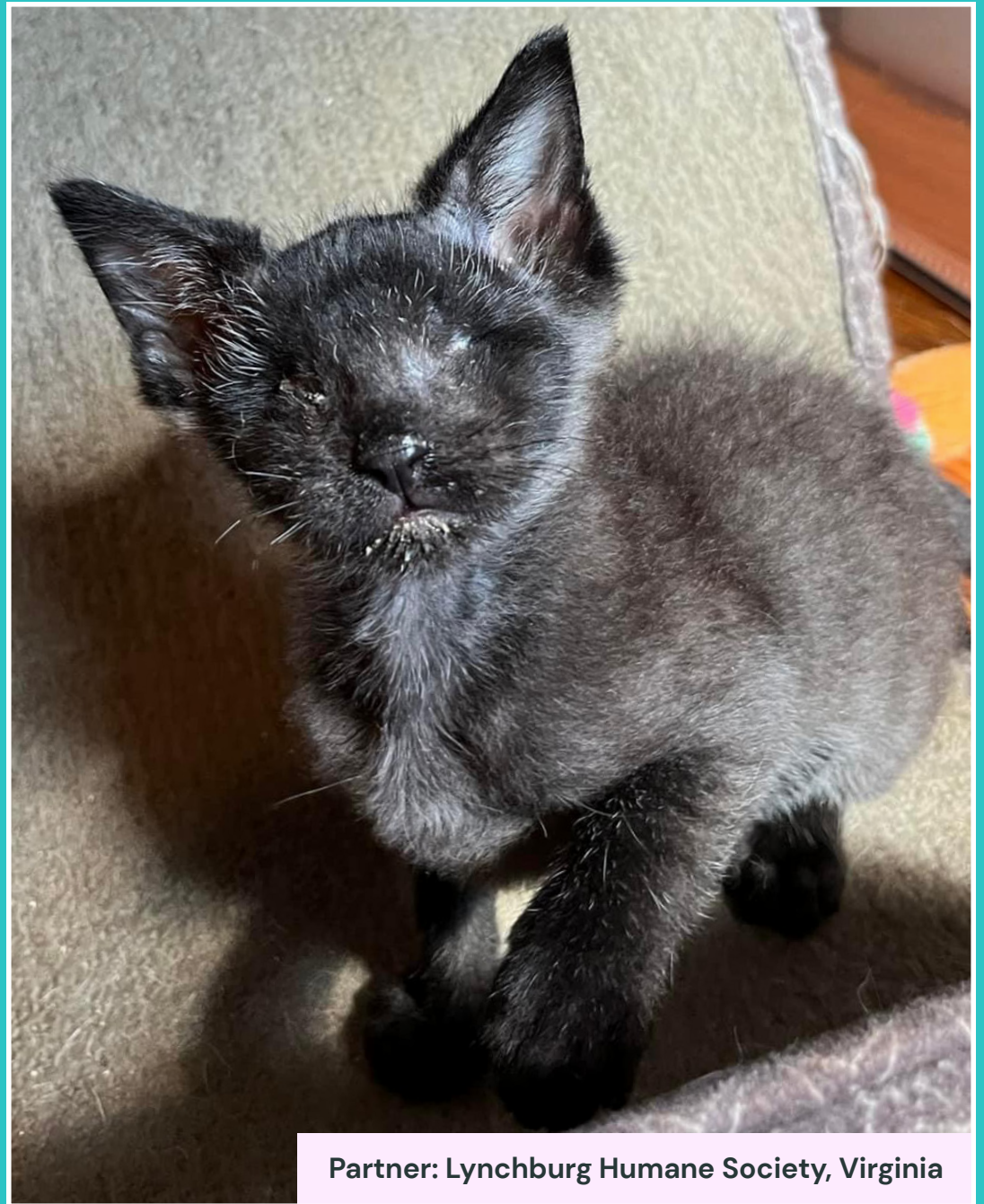
Ringworm is a treatable condition, but it can be life-threatening when shelters don't have enough foster parents or resources to treat them all. We teamed up with our Hawaii-based partner Kauai Humane Society to provide grant funding for The Fungal Jungle, a converted shipping container that serves as a dedicated ringworm treatment space.



Kuro is just one of the many kittens treated through Mightycat funding. He had a bad case of ringworm—but thanks to these lifesaving resources, he was able to thrive!

Pepper

Pepper was found at three weeks old with double eye ruptures and an umbilical hernia, weighing only 11 ounces. Orphan Kitten Club funded his Mightycat journey with double enucleations, a hernia repair and neuter surgery. Even without his sight, Pepper has acclimated well in his new home and is adored by his adopted family!



Partner: Lynchburg Humane Society, Virginia

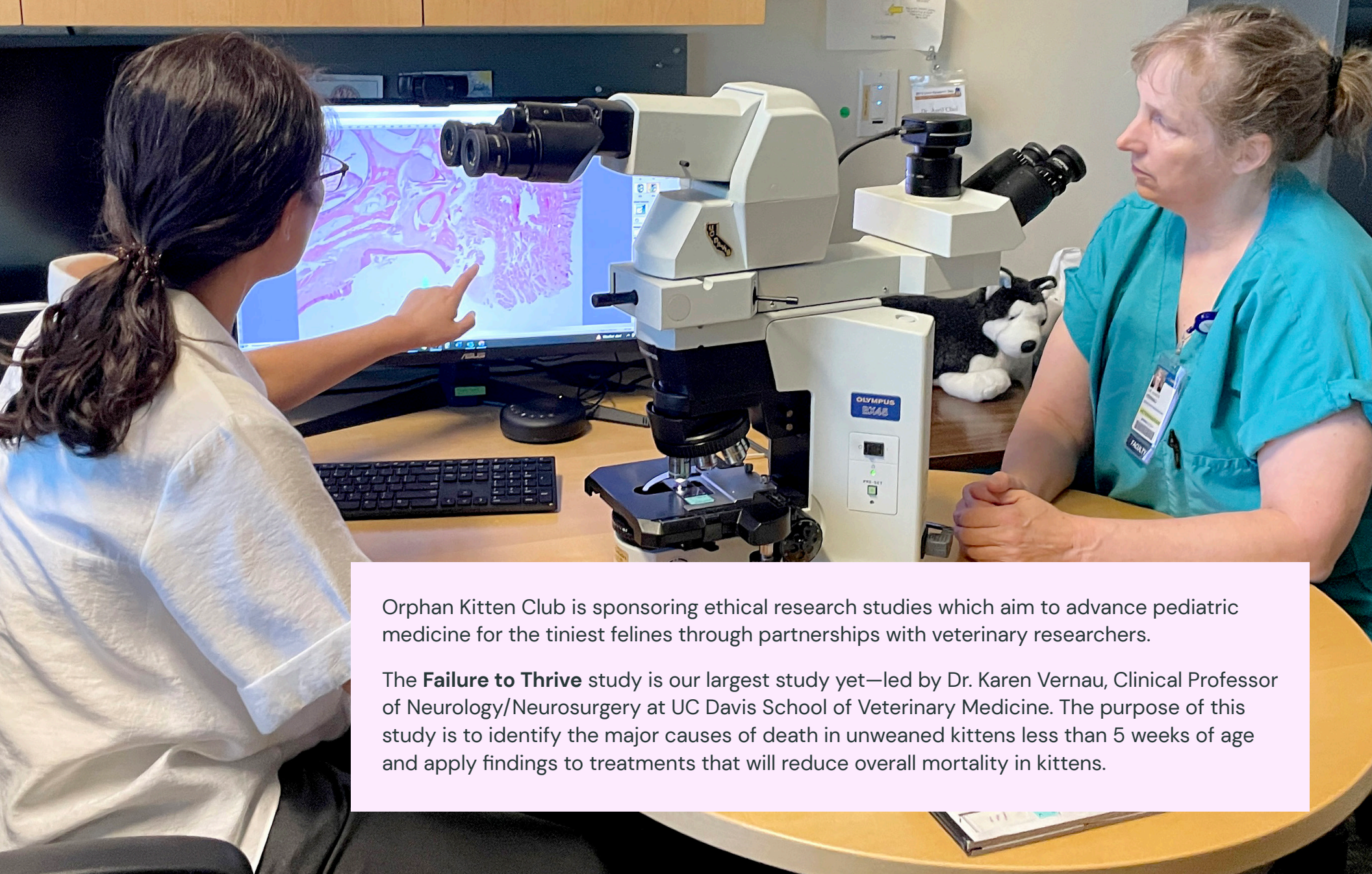
SOUTHERN KITTEN FUND

Orphan Kitten Club held its first location-based grant opportunity in the southern states, offering resources to organizations who had a great need for lifesaving neonatal kitten programs. Grants assisted thousands of kittens through neonatal intake diversion kits, foster kits, ringworm and panleukopenia treatments, renovation of a kitten nursery and kitten formula/supplies.



Feline Advocates of Leon County, FL
Six Kittens Rescue, TX
Wolly Kitten Club, TX
Richmond SPCA, VA
Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue, Inc., OK
Lynchburg Humane Society, VA
Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, NC
Montgomery Humane Society, AL

RESEARCH



Orphan Kitten Club is sponsoring ethical research studies which aim to advance pediatric medicine for the tiniest felines through partnerships with veterinary researchers.

The **Failure to Thrive** study is our largest study yet—led by Dr. Karen Vernau, Clinical Professor of Neurology/Neurosurgery at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. The purpose of this study is to identify the major causes of death in unweaned kittens less than 5 weeks of age and apply findings to treatments that will reduce overall mortality in kittens.

UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital's Kitten Viral Upper Respiratory Infection Study is being supported by Orphan Kitten Club. This ethical study worked with kittens who already had signs of upper respiratory infections and were seeking treatment. In this project, they evaluated the drug Famciclovir as a treatment for kittens with ocular herpes virus infection. The antiviral drug was believed to reduce the duration and severity of eye disease caused by the feline herpes virus, but it had not yet been studied in young kittens. The final phase of the study which is exploring treatments is currently underway and will be published soon.



Orphan Kitten Club is co-sponsoring groundbreaking ethical research through UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital's Kitten Ringworm Study. Kittens with confirmed cases of ringworm were invited to participate in various different treatments to measure the efficacy and safety of each one. The double-blind study is now complete, and results are being analyzed and prepared for publication in 2024.



Chunk

Meet Chunk, one of the study's participants. As you can see, he was missing a "chunk" of fur from the top of his head due to ringworm!

We recently received a update from Chunk's family:

"My guy, Chunk, participated in the ringworm study that OKC graciously funded. Chunk cleared his ringworm through the study, and it was only because of the study that the research team realized that Chunk also had congenital hypothyroidism. Chunk then became a *dual degree candidate at UC Davis* who was enrolled in both the ringworm study and the hypothyroidism study. As a vegan and animal rescuer myself, I know that this method of conducting research was a far more ethical option... I cannot adequately relay the sense of pride that I feel every day knowing that Chunk has advanced feline medicine through his participation in these two studies. Your generous funding of the ringworm study—which led to Chunks hypothyroid diagnosis—completely saved his life—twice. And how lucky we are to adore and worship him."



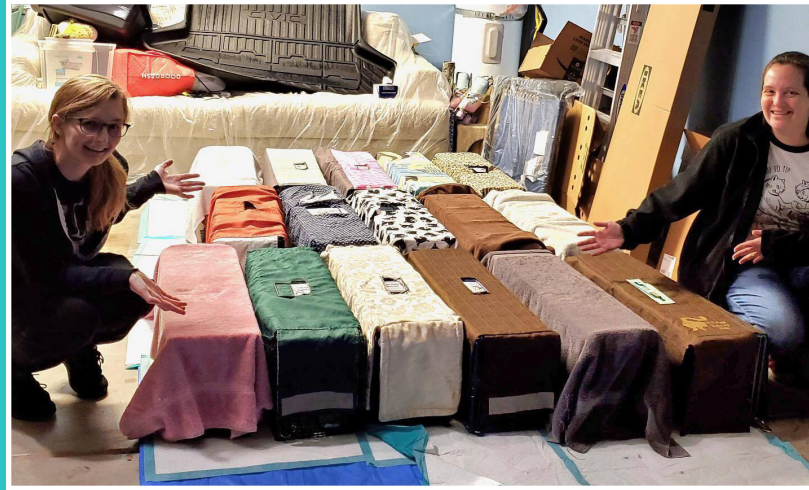
↪ **Check out healthy Chunk with his moms!**

NURSERY

Orphan Kitten Club may be focusing our sights on the national horizon—but the hands-on work with our nursery kittens continues!

When our founder learned that there was an orphaned neonatal kitten being given away for free in a local “buy nothing” group, she sprung into action and intervened. Not only did Freebie get the opportunity for proper care—but our team of volunteers also was able to successfully sterilize 16 cats at the location where she was found!

Making a Full Circle difference by sterilizing Freebie’s colony so that no more kittens are born!



Freebie



Wedding Crashers

Perhaps the most heartwarming litter of 2023 was the Wedding Crasher kittens—a group of 5 orphans who were rescued from a local shelter just before the wedding of our team members Hannah and Andrew. The bottle babies attended their wedding, where they were bottle-fed by the bride throughout the day. It just goes to show that our work for kittens never stops—and never will!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



orphankittenclub.org

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