



2024

Impact Report

A Note of Gratitude

Dear Friend,

I've always believed that small acts of kindness can create mighty change, and Orphan Kitten Club is proving just that! What began as one person's dream has grown into a movement that is revolutionizing the future for neonatal kittens. In 2024, we achieved groundbreaking milestones: our **first ethical pediatric research study** was published, we fed **over a million meals** to shelter kittens, we helped fill more shelters with **kitten-focused staff** than ever before...and most excitingly, **we welcomed our first Executive Director**.

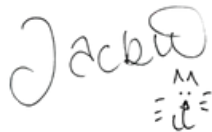
Finding the right leader was no small task; we needed someone with unparalleled expertise, bold vision, and the passionate drive to forge real change for kittens. That person is **Jackie Noble—a trailblazer in kitten welfare and the nation's leading expert on shelter kitten programs**. With Jackie at the helm, we are poised to transform the landscape for neonatal kittens like never before!

We are thrilled to share some of the incredible strides we've made in the past year—thanks to you. **Your support is the ripple that becomes the wave, and together we are truly turning the tide for the tiniest and most vulnerable felines.**

With gratitude,



Hannah Shaw
Founder



Jackie Noble
Executive Director



Remembering Coco: The First Droplet



In 2024, we launched our first annual Giving Tuesday Collector's Pin. It was only fitting that our very first pin featured Coco, the kitten who inspired it all, sitting in the tree where she was found in 2009.



It was 2009 when Orphan Kitten Club's founder, Hannah Shaw, glanced up into a tree and locked eyes with a tiny kitten hidden among the leaves. **That fateful moment set off the very first ripple in an enormous wave of change for kittenkind.**

That kitten was Coconut "Coco" Tenderheart Shaw, whose legacy we honor after saying goodbye in 2024.

From a single rescue to a global movement, **Coco's legacy lives on, creating ripples of impact that save at-risk kittens nationwide** and proving that even the smallest gesture can grow into something monumental.

18,742+

kittens were impacted by Orphan Kitten Club in 2024! Here's how:

Mightycat Grants

With more than 100 partner organizations across the U.S., we operate the world's first and only grant program focused on neonatal kitten care and protection.

Ethical Research

We advance veterinary medicine and care for neonatal kittens through groundbreaking, ethical, and non-invasive research in collaboration with leading universities.

Kitten Nursery

Based in Southern California, we provide 24/7 expert care for bottle babies and kittens with medical needs, tackling unique cases and sharing our knowledge to empower others.



2024: Our Most Impactful Year Yet!



\$728K

in kitten-focused
grants funded



177

grants awarded
to partners



1M+

meals of formula
provided

Milestones



**We hired our first
ever Executive
Director**, kitten expert
Jackie Noble!



Our **3 millionth
grant dollar** was
distributed!



We provided more
than **1 million meals
of formula** to kittens
across the country!



We reached
**50,000 kittens
saved!**



The results of our
**Upper Respiratory
Infection** study were
published by UC
Davis!

Together, we're making waves of impact for kittens from coast to coast.

Orphan Kitten Club is transforming kitten welfare across the United States by collaborating with partner shelters, rescues, researchers, and donors.

Got Formula?
SpokAnimal C.A.R.E



URI Research
UC Davis



Dumpley
OKC Nursery



Dove
Maui Humane Society



Nyx
Lawrence Humane

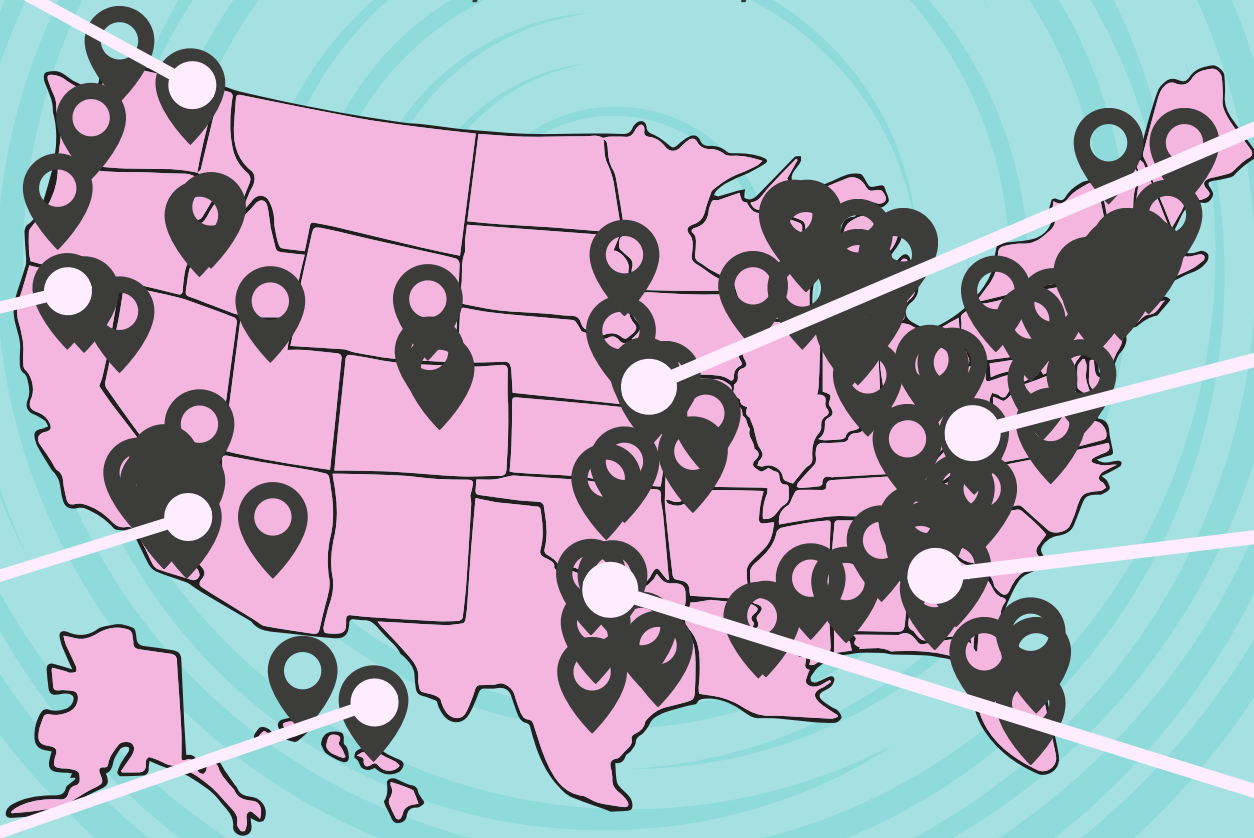


Brother Wolf
Animal Rescue

Feline Advocates of
Leon County



Gremlin
Dallas Cat Lady



Ripples of Empowerment **Mightycat Grants**



Mightycat grants create lasting change by equipping partner shelters and rescues with the tools they need to save kittens.

Medical

Partners receive lifesaving grants for individual kittens with medical needs, removing financial barriers to critical care for sick and injured kittens who need it most.

Innovation

We help partners implement successful kitten programs, supporting locally driven solutions that meet the unique needs of kittens in their communities.

Strategic

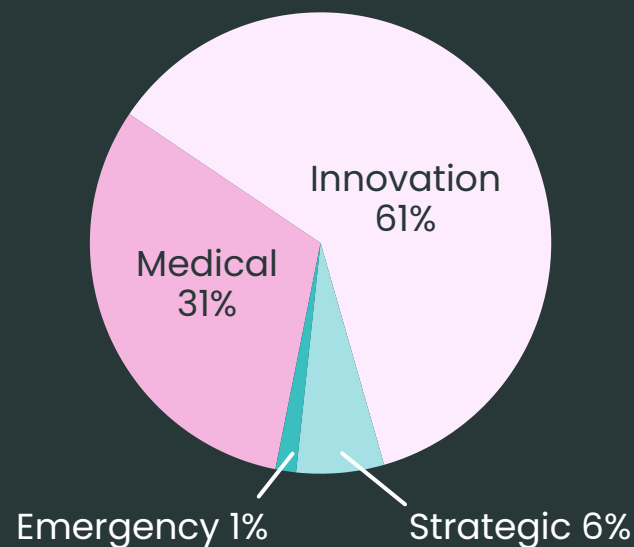
Funding opportunities are selected with expert input from our advisory board to strengthen and advance lifesaving initiatives for kittens nationwide.

Emergency

We assist partners impacted by disasters like fires or floods, ensuring vulnerable kittens receive care during emergencies.



Type of Grants Distributed in 2024



Medical Grants

2024 By The Numbers

\$227,392

medical grant funds distributed

102

individual Mightycats received
funding for medical care

44

partner shelters/rescues
received medical grants

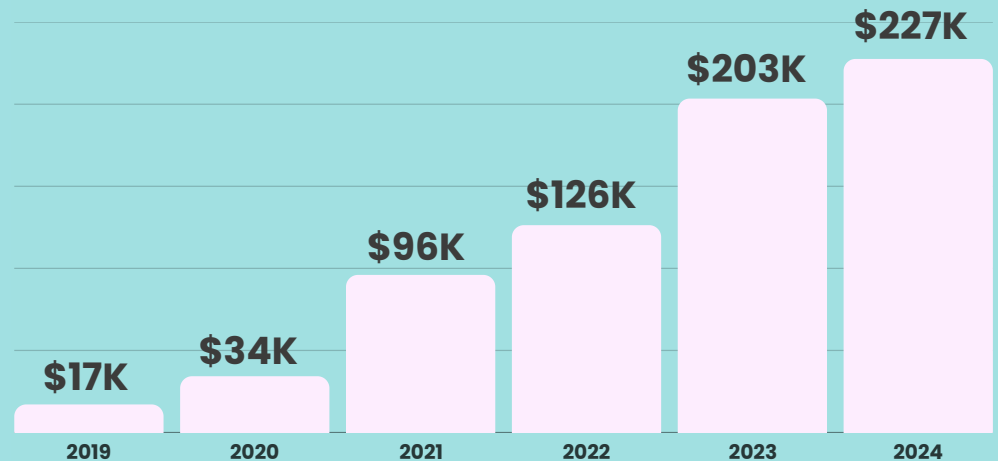
24

states

1

territory

Medical Grant Funds Distributed by Year



Top Funded Medical Needs in 2024

Enucleations 30
Amputations 11
Orthopedics 10
Emergency Care 9
Pectus Excavatum 7
Hernia Repair 6

Ocular Surgery 4
Atresia Ani Surgery 3
Cleft Palate Surgery 2
FIP Treatment 2
Prolapse Repair 2
Other 16



A Vision For a Brighter Future

In 2024, OKC funded more enucleation (eye removal) surgeries than any other procedure. These surgeries are often necessary for kittens with severe ocular damage caused by upper respiratory infections.

We're proud to not only provide relief to individual kittens by funding these surgeries, but to **spare vision for kittens everywhere by funding research to improve URI treatment**, protecting kittens' eyes before damage occurs. Learn more about 2024's exciting research study on page 28!

Ghost

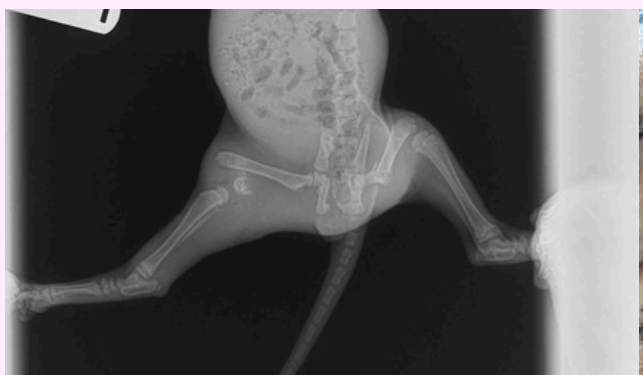
The Little Lion Foundation, CA



From just three weeks old, Peter struggled with diarrhea and poor growth. With funding from OKC and an unusual yet promising plan, our partners **Yolo County SPCA and UC Davis** used a **fecal transplant to reset Peter's gut!** After the procedure, Peter's health drastically improved—he started producing perfect poops!



Styx, from Helping Hands Humane Society in Kansas, is **one of 11 kittens that received a medical grant for amputation surgery from OKC in 2024.** He is now a proud member of the tri-pod squad!



When Jack arrived at Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue in Oklahoma, they feared that he may be paralyzed. When it was discovered that he had two broken legs, **OKC funded Jack's lifesaving orthopedic surgery, allowing him to walk again!**



Macaroni from Kitten Rescue Life needed surgery after he was found with a severe leg wound, likely from a wild animal attack. **OKC covered Macaroni's extensive vet care until he made a full recovery!**



When three-week-old Milton arrived at Newborn Kitten Rescue, he was battling bacterial and viral pneumonia and a nearly collapsed lung. **OKC funded Milton's oxygen treatment, allowing him to heal.** Milton's emotional support watermelon toy helped him through.



When a litter of five kittens with severe upper respiratory infections was at risk of euthanasia, Feline Advocates of Leon County in Florida asked OKC for help. After several days of hospitalization, the kittens were stable enough for foster care. **Four of the five kittens required at least one eye to be surgically removed due to infection.**

Chouchou's Protocol Saves Treble



Treble, Lawrence Humane Society

When Treble arrived at Lawrence Humane Society in Kansas, they discovered **he had a cleft palate, making it impossible for him to eat on his own.** Not long ago, a kitten in the Orphan Kitten Club Nursery, Chouchou, faced the same issue.

We knew the specialized feeding method we created to feed Chouchou could save Treble, too. **We shared our knowledge and provided a medical grant to ensure Treble could grow strong enough for the surgery he needed.**

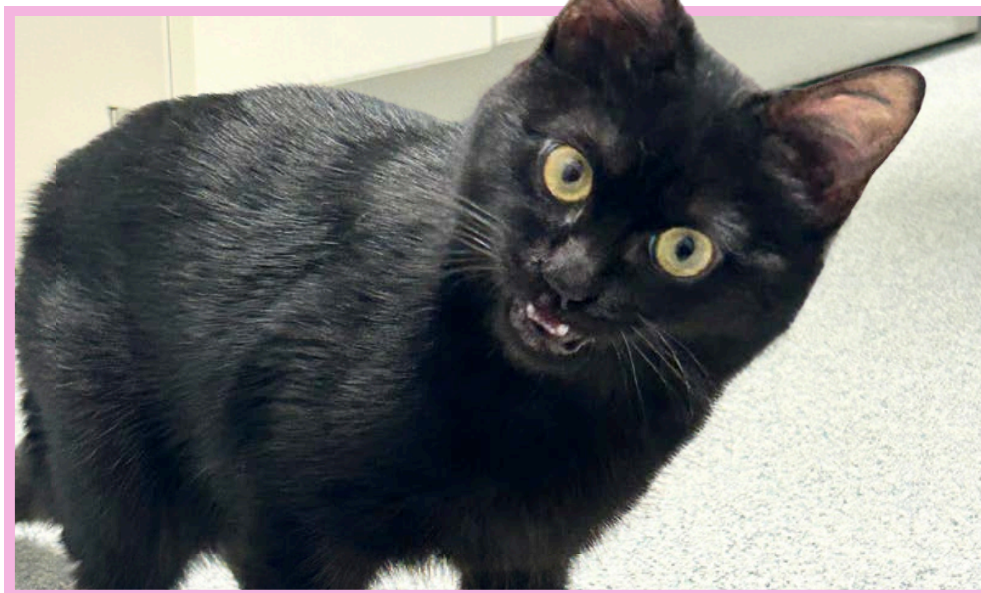
Thanks to this collaboration, Treble's journey led to a life-changing moment: **his surgery was a success, and for the very first time, he was able to eat on his own!**



Watch Treble's inspiring video!



Chouchou



Turtle's Legacy Saves Angelo



Angelo, The NOAH Center, WA

Angelo, a tiny kitten from The NOAH Center in Washington, was born much smaller than his siblings. **He was diagnosed with pectus excavatum—a condition that restricted his breathing and growth**, and the same condition Orphan Kitten Club's beloved Turtle had bravely battled.

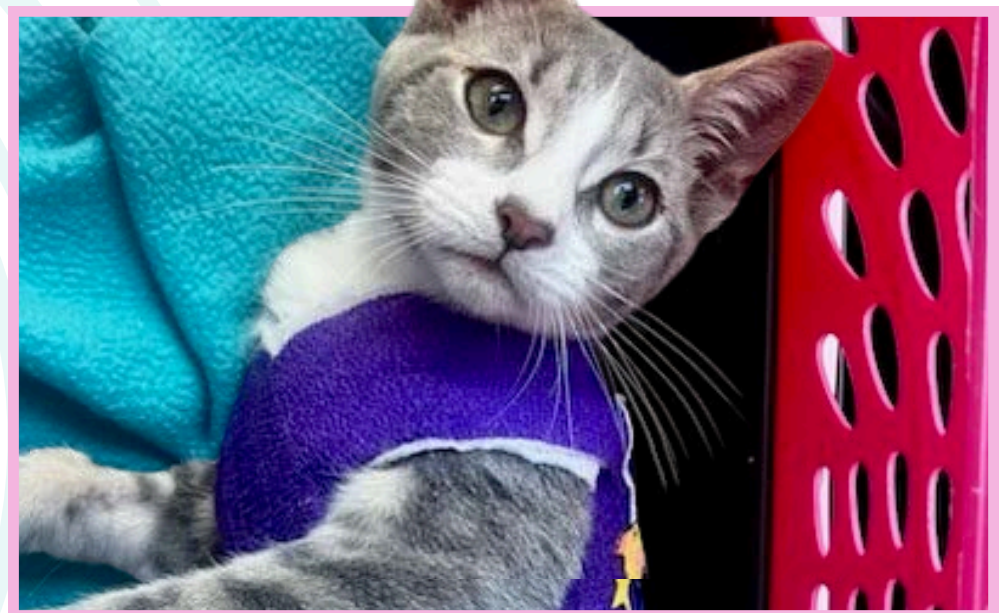
Because of the generosity of OKC donors who gave to **Turtle's Legacy**, we were able to fund the surgery Angelo needed to survive.

With the grant secured, Angelo underwent surgery to expand his ribcage using an external splint. **The procedure was a success, and his ribcage is now nearly 100% normal.** Once healed, Angelo was adopted into a loving home, just as every kitten deserves!

As of the end of 2024, **Orphan Kitten Club has funded a total of 16 pectus excavatum surgeries!**



Turtle



Innovation Grants

2024 By The Numbers

\$445,946

innovation grant funds invested

22

partners

15

states



Projects Funded:

8

Kitten-Focused
Shelter Staff

3

Medical
Programs

10

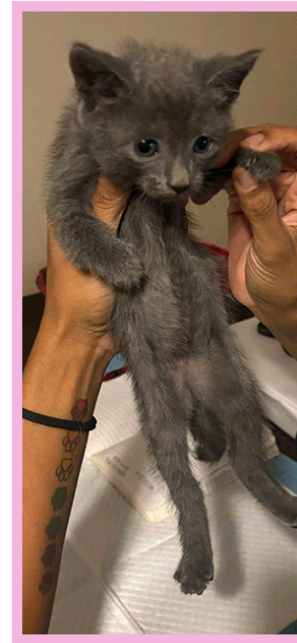
Supplies &
Equipment

Top Funded Innovation Projects in 2024

Incubators
Kitten-Focused Staff
Medical Programs
Spay/Neuter Programs

Facility Upgrades
Kitten Food
Community Engagement

This section highlights impact stories from our most recently completed funding cycle.



Vet Hired to Save Kittens

When Reptar and Rex arrived at Feline Advocates of Leon County in Tallahassee, Florida, with limb deformities, **they met Dr. Davidson, a kitten-focused veterinarian who was hired with a Mightycat grant!** Within an hour of their arrival, Dr. Davidson examined the kittens and had a treatment plan in place.



Within our last grant cycle, **Dr. Davidson cared for a total of 87 kittens.** What a hero!

Dr. Davidson, Reptar, and Rex
Feline Advocates of Leon County, FL



Charlie & Jordan
Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, TX

Kitten-Focused Staff Hired

At Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter in Georgetown, Texas, **incoming kittens were welcomed by Kitten Care Specialists, Charlie and Jordan, whose positions were funded by a Mightycat grant!**

Both pre-veterinary students at Southwestern University, this dynamic duo **provided essential care for kittens under eight weeks old** while they were on-site awaiting foster placement.

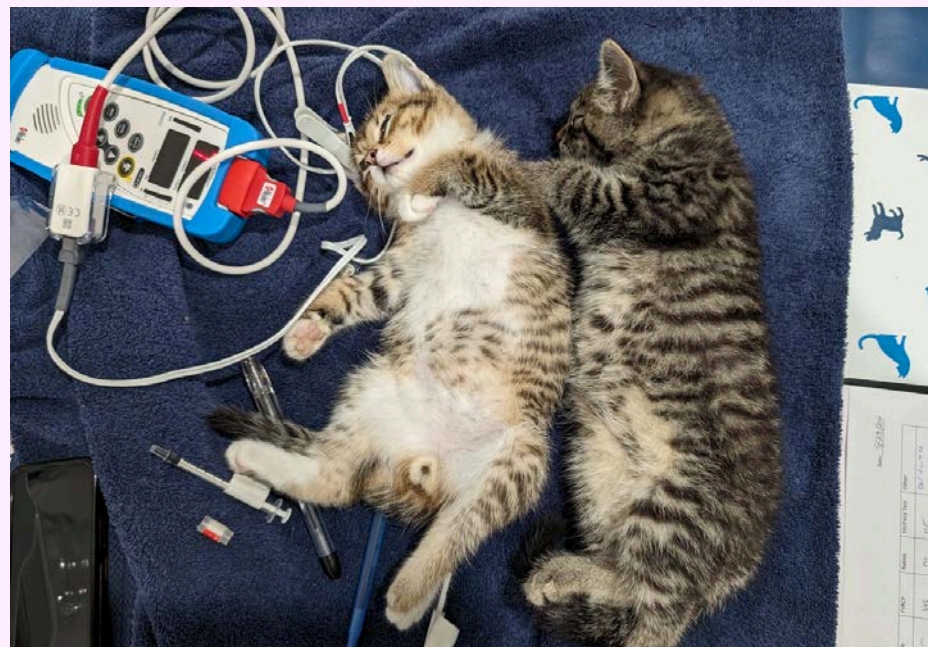
Two kitten-focused staff members means double the support and daily coverage for kittens. They provided medication, vaccinations, bottle feeding, and specialized care for a total of **1,500 kittens** during our last grant cycle. Talk about a huge impact!



When Meow Parlour in New York faced the closure of their partner spay/neuter clinic, they developed an innovative solution brought to life with a Mightycat grant!

Meow Parlour trained their veterinarian in high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN) techniques, hired a technician, and invested in the necessary equipment to **bring spay/neuter procedures in-house**.

As a result of this initiative, **100 kittens have received essential spay/neuter surgeries so far**, along with other critical medical procedures.



With a Mightycat grant, **Indy Humane created a specialized training program to empower foster families to care for panleukopenia-positive kittens**—turning daunting into doable! The grant also helped **expand their staff**, ensuring foster families had the support they needed to confidently save little lives.

Caring for panleuk-positive kittens requires extra **supplies and medications**, so the grant also helped cover these critical needs, ensuring that the kittens received the best possible care. **The program has already saved 244 kittens!**

With support from a Mightycat grant, **Lynchburg Humane Society in Virginia created their very own Mightycat Market**, a central supply hub that serves as a vital resource for their 700 dedicated foster caregivers.

With shelves fully stocked with essential kitten supplies, the Mightycat Market removes financial barriers to fostering, allowing foster parents to focus on saving lives!

Kittens like Albert, who was found in someone's front yard, reap the benefits of the Mightycat Market, where Albert's foster parent was able to gather all the essential supplies to help him thrive.



Strategic Grants



The Herb Kittens, Lawrence Humane Society, KS

One Million Meals

Strategic grants are proactively distributed to shelters and rescues to fulfill specific, targeted needs.

In 2024, our strategic grant cycle focused on feeding kittens! With an investment of \$44,620, **OKC provided one million meals of nutritious formula to more than 7,000 newborn kittens** in 50 partner shelters across 32 states and one territory.

“Neonatal kittens were one of our biggest lifesaving gaps. **Having the formula to be able to give to fosters was a literal life saver!**” –
Riverside County Department of Animal Services, CA

**Watch the
Million Meals
video!**



Double Stuf

*The Runaways Animal Rescue, FL
Rescued from being trapped inside of a wall!*

Emergency Grants



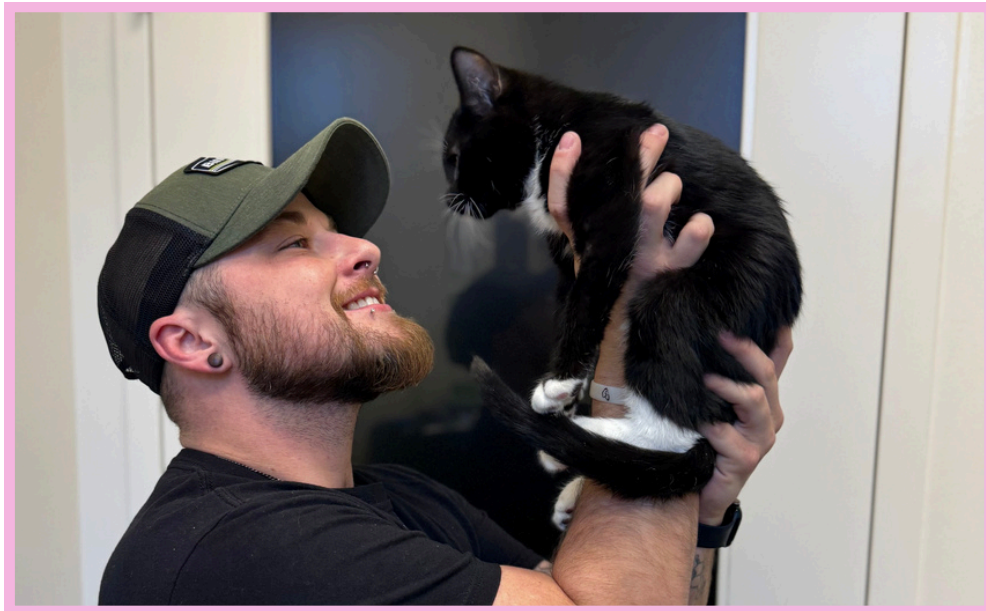
Brother Wolf Animal Rescue

When disaster strikes, OKC helps vulnerable kittens receive continued care by providing emergency grants.

When Hurricane Helene decimated Brother Wolf Animal Rescue in North Carolina in the fall of 2024, all of their animals were evacuated to safety, but the **flood water destroyed their building and all supplies within—a quarter of which were lifesaving kitten supplies.**

To help restock these items ahead of kitten season, **OKC provided a \$10,500 emergency grant to Brother Wolf, allowing them to purchase an incubator, heat discs, scales, bottles, and kitten food.**

“Thank you, OKC, for helping us recover and continue to impact the animals who depend on us, no matter the challenges we face. **You are a true partner in Brother Wolf’s lifesaving work** and we’re so very grateful for your support, especially right now.” – *Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, NC*



Ripples of Knowledge

Ethical Research



Understanding Kittens

Kittens are fragile beings with complex medical challenges, yet they have been significantly underrepresented in scientific research. This lack of knowledge can be devastating for the veterinarians and caregivers trying to help them—and sadly, deadly for the kittens.

OKC is proud to fund groundbreaking research that furthers pediatric feline medicine, advancing the world's understanding of kittens and their care needs and ultimately, saving more lives.

In 2024, our Upper Respiratory Infection Study was officially published—see the exciting results on the next page! Two more studies are in the data collection phase: one which seeks to understand underlying causes of death in neonatal kittens, and one which seeks to make ringworm treatment more accessible and effective for kittens. Stay tuned!

Morbidity & Mortality Study



IN DATA
COLLECTION PHASE

Upper Respiratory Infection Study



PUBLISHED!

Ringworm Study



IN DATA
COLLECTION PHASE

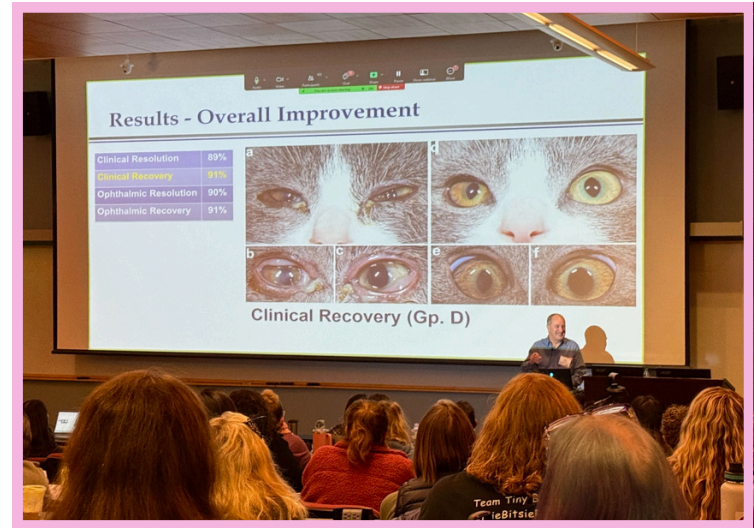
Respiratory Study Published

In November 2024, groundbreaking research sponsored by OKC was published in the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery! The study, conducted at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, focused on **improving treatment for viral upper respiratory infections** (URIs), a common and serious condition in shelter kittens that can often lead to vision loss.

The research found that **combining the antiviral medication famciclovir with the antibiotic doxycycline significantly speeds up recovery**. Kittens treated with this combination showed improvement 4 to 5 days sooner than those receiving doxycycline alone. More importantly, **fewer kittens in the combined treatment group developed serious eye problems**, greatly reducing the risk of permanent vision loss.

This study included 373 shelter kittens who already had URIs. This strong sample size, made possible through funding, shows that **a more effective treatment could save lives and improve adoption outcomes**. By helping kittens recover more quickly, this new approach also frees up valuable space in shelters, allowing them to care for more animals in need.

Dr. Karen Vernau and Dr. David Maggs, the lead researchers, emphasize that **this research has the potential to transform how shelters treat respiratory infections**. By helping kittens recover more quickly, it also increases their chances of being adopted sooner, as younger, healthier kittens are much more likely to find homes quickly.



Read the
full study!





Ringworm Study in Action

Ringworm is a common fungal infection that causes hair loss in kittens. OKC has partnered with UC Davis on this study which aims to improve ringworm treatment options for kittens. The study focuses on two primary treatments: an oral antifungal medication and topical therapy.

The results of the study are in the data evaluation phase, and we're already gaining a better understanding of effective treatment methods!

Orphan Kitten Club's **Miette was ringworm-free in less than 4 weeks of treatment,** without the need for unpleasant treatments like lime sulfur dips.

Ripples of Transformation

Kitten Nursery



The Sopranos

In the OKC Kitten Nursery, we're not only tackling some the most unique medical cases—we're sharing what we learn along the way to empower other caregivers, setting off ripples of knowledge that save kittens everywhere.

Shortly after their arrival, a fecal test revealed that **The Sopranos kittens were battling panleukopenia, a deadly illness.** In the face of this challenge, the litter became more than just a brave group of kittens—they became educators. Their journey provided crucial lessons in disease control, disinfection, and the importance of responding quickly to health threats.



Learn about disease prevention from The Sopranos!



Uncle Junior, Carmela, Livia, and Furio
OKC Nursery, San Diego, CA



Push Pop, Chipwich, and Rocket Pop - Found abandoned by an ice cream truck



Miette – Rescued from a pubic park with severely misaligned legs

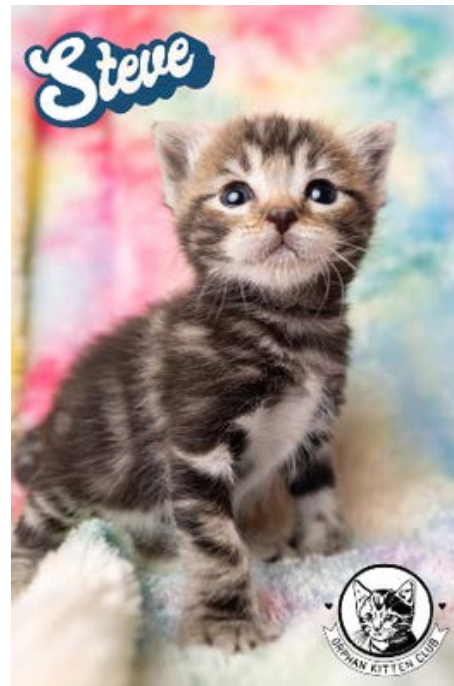
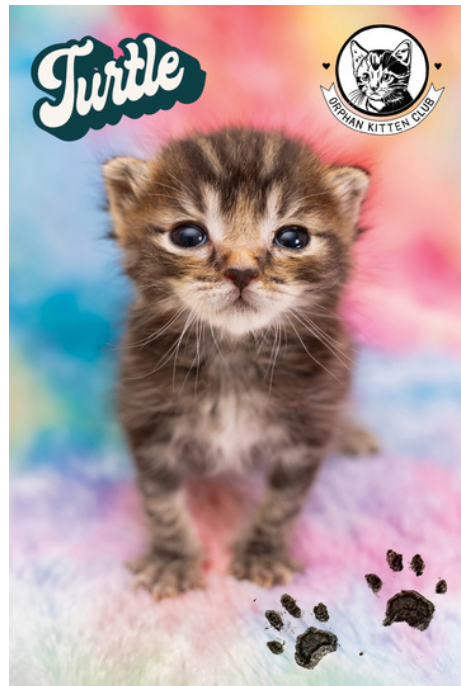


Oscar - Found by a dumpster in Ensenada, Mexico

Thank You!

Like a single drop creating ripples on water, **the generosity of our club members and donors spreads far beyond the stories told in this book, reaching even more kittens in communities across the country.** Thank you for believing in our mission and for being part of this mighty force for change.

Club members received these exclusive trading cards in 2024:



Turning the Tide for Tiny Lives

Orphan Kitten Club is revolutionizing kitten welfare nationwide. Since 2016, we've invested over \$3 million in transformative grants to shelter and rescue partners, creating a safer future for the most vulnerable kittens—and impacting over 50,000 little lives and counting. Each kitten saved, project funded, and study published sets off a ripple of lasting impact for kittens everywhere.



Join the Club!

