

ORPHAN KITTEN CLUB 2022

A YEAR IN REVIEW





Dear friend,

What a year! We are so grateful for your kindness to the little ones in 2022. Together we saved countless kittens who were newborn, orphaned, or medically vulnerable. We sparked innovation in animal shelters by building and enhancing neonatal kitten programs across the country, and thanks to your generosity we gave lifesaving medical funding to dozens of kittens in need of emergency surgeries and specialty treatments throughout the United States. But perhaps the most exciting new development is our launch of an ethical research program to advance veterinary medicine for pediatric felines! We hope that you can see yourself in the pages that follow, and know that your contribution is truly making the world a safer place for the tiniest and most vulnerable felines. Thank you!

Hannah Shaw
Founder

NURSERY

Through our nursery program, we provided around-the-clock care to newborn kittens, giving them a loving place to grow and heal. We are proud to not only take in the smallest and most vulnerable orphaned neonates, but also to focus on complex medical cases that require specialty care. This year we expanded our nursery program to double our number of kitten caregivers, allowing us to save even more lives!



Baron von Costume



Baron was transferred to us from our local animal shelter due to his need for advanced medical care. Our team was immediately enamored with this tiny orange cuddlebug! Baron was

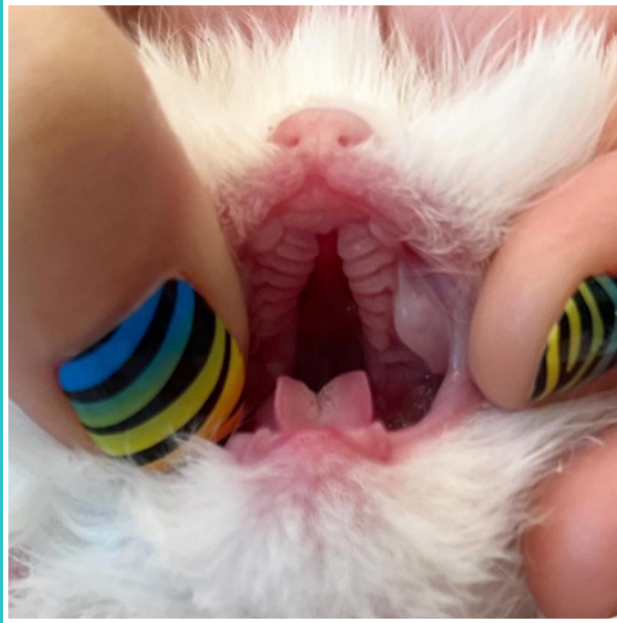
born with a congenital condition called eyelid agenesis, where a portion of the eyelid margin is underdeveloped at birth. Once he was big and strong enough, he received enucleation surgery for his blind eye, and a cryoablation treatment on his right eyelid to save his eye, keep his vision, and improve his comfort for the rest of his life. He quickly recovered and was placed into a loving home, where he is now called "Baron von Lobster!"



Chouchou

Chouchou weighed just 60 grams when he arrived in our care, and it was clear right away that his case would be an uphill battle. Born with a severe cleft palate, Chouchou could not safely nurse; for him to take any food or liquid by mouth would have caused deadly aspiration.





But there was no way we were going to give up on this little dandelion puff! To save his life, we tube fed him for more than 5 months until he was old enough to receive a consultation with one of the world's leading veterinary specialists in cleft palate repair, who called his case "unprecedented." Thanks to dedication, science, and a whole lot of love, Chouchou has now received an innovative surgery that has repaired his palate—allowing him to finally eat on his own!



MAMAS & BABIES

This year we rescued many memorable mother cats and their precious litters of kittens. Whether feral or friendly, our team said “yes” to helping out these queens as they nursed their little ones!



Mama Angel Kitty may not love humans...but she adored her babies!



Mama Firework and her ginger kittens!

Mama Thali

This fall, we rescued three newborn kittens from a local animal shelter, raising them in our kitten nursery where they were provided with an incubator and around-the-clock bottle feeding. At the same time, we obtained the address where they had been found and worked hard to try to locate their mother. After three weeks of searching, we were able to rescue not only their mother, Thali, but also a fourth kitten, Aamli, who had been living on the street! Thanks to our Full Circle approach, the four kittens were reunited!



BABY CLUB



Buster & Lucille

When we learned about a vulnerable young potbelly pig and her last surviving piglet, who was just days old, we opened our Baby Club barn to them right away. We named the doting mother Lucille, and her clingy son Buster. Shy at first, Lucille began to open up to us through soft pets and tasty treats, and she officially won the award for "Most Gentle Treat Taker." Buster on the other hand approached his life with zest and gusto, zipping around the barnyard with a hop and a skip to his step! After they were spayed and neutered we placed them into the care of Ginger Grange, a micro-sanctuary in Washington. These two will live out their days being spoiled with love and partying in mud pits!



MIGHTYCAT

2022 was the fourth year of our innovative Mightycat grant program, in which we partner with rescues and shelters throughout the United States to create and enhance impactful programs that save and improve the lives of kittens. We are excited to have expanded our partner network to over 60 different organizations in communities around the United States! Our partnership allows organizations to apply for both emergency medical funding and larger programmatic funding. Here are a few of our most memorable kittens who received support to help them on their medical journey.

Ladybug

Ladybug was found in terrible condition and was brought to our partner, Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, in Georgetown, TX for care. She had a horrific eye infection that had caused her eyes to swell so badly that she had become blind. It was determined that her eyes should be removed, and Orphan Kitten Club covered the costs associated with her double enucleation surgery. Despite her eye issues, Ladybug thrived in her foster home and learned how to navigate her space with sounds and smells instead. Ladybug has since recovered and is living her best kitten life!



Georgetown, TX

Charlie

Charlie came to our partner, YOLO SPCA in Davis, CA as a young kitten with a cough that no one could figure out. This little guy remained uninterested in food and had a persistent cough even after 3 weeks of 2 different antibiotics. Orphan Kitten Club granted the funds to give Charlie a full workup to better understand his condition. With the information from his bloodwork and radiographs, he was able to start treatment for a lungworm infection and associated elevated kidney values. With new medications and fluid therapy, Charlie started to improve—and finally purred for the first time in his life! Even though he would give his medication regimen 0 out of 5 stars, we are all so glad to finally see him enjoying a much better quality of life.



Big Boss

Big Boss and his 3 siblings were brought to our partner Rocky Mountain Feline Rescue in Denver, CO as orphans in need of care and medical assistance. Big Boss was in rough shape when he arrived, and needed to be admitted to an animal hospital several times for lethargy, diarrhea, and hypoglycemia. Orphan Kitten Club helped cover the cost of his extensive medical care and hospitalization, allowing him to receive the lifesaving supportive care he needed. Big Boss recovered in foster care, and thrived! We are so proud to have supported this little guy when he needed it the most.



Denver, CO

Wilder

When Wilder was found under an abandoned house, it was clear right away that his back legs were in poor shape. Our partner organization, Kitten Nuggets in New Smyrna Beach, FL, brought him in for x-rays and found that he was missing several bones in his lower legs and feet, and that the existing bones were misshapen. Orphan Kitten Club provided funding to explore splinting and specialty treatments, and when it became clear that his hind legs could not be straightened and were causing him discomfort, we also provided funding for amputations. Now, Wilder is so much more comfortable getting around with his front legs! Way to go, little zoomer!



New Smyrna Beach, FL

PROGRAM GRANTS

This year we increased our support of lifesaving programs around the nation that help make the world a safer place for kittens. These programmatic grants varied from essential care supplies to kitten-focused staff positions. Here are a few examples of programs we invested in to help our partners innovate their work with kittens.



Fun Sized Feline Fecal Fund

In Lawrence, Kansas we partnered with Lawrence Humane Society to enhance their foster kitten program with their aptly titled project, Fun Sized Feline Fecal Fund! This grant was focused on kittens ages 2-8 weeks who presented with diarrhea, intestinal issues, or an unexplained illness. We provided funding for fecal testing and targeted treatment plans provided under veterinary supervision, allowing kittens to receive expedited care and recover more quickly. This fecal testing is so helpful because it prevents putting kittens on needless medications that will not address the issues they are having!

Lawrence Humane Society told us "The ability to administer a fecal test from the get-go when a kitten is ill is completely new to us. In the past, we would try to treat the kitten first, only utilizing fecal tests when treatment did not work. So the fact that we have been able to diagnose and pinpoint the issue so quickly has been a game-changer and has allowed us to save the lives of a number of medically complicated kittens for whom time was an important factor for recovery."



Lawrence, KS

Whisker Wellness Center

In Stillwater, Oklahoma, we partnered with Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue to create their Whisker Wellness Center, an on-site space for medical treatment. The funds were used to retrofit their space and to design a dedicated medical room! This grant provided new cage banks, a sink, cabinets, shelving, and a fold-down exam table for vet visits, as well as incubators, oxygen concentrators, nebulizers, and other necessary medical equipment. In a subsequent grant, we helped them to expand and improve this medical center and surgery room. Their veterinarians can now perform spay/neuter surgeries on-site in their state-of-the-art surgical suites, increasing the number of kittens they can spay and neuter on a given day!

Tiny Paws has told us that “The Whisker Wellness Center positively affects every kitten that comes through the door. These grants have helped move the heart of our rescue mission in a much better direction. Tiny Paws and the kittens are so grateful to you!”

The higher and more efficient quality of care provided by the Whisker Wellness Center has already impacted hundreds of kittens.

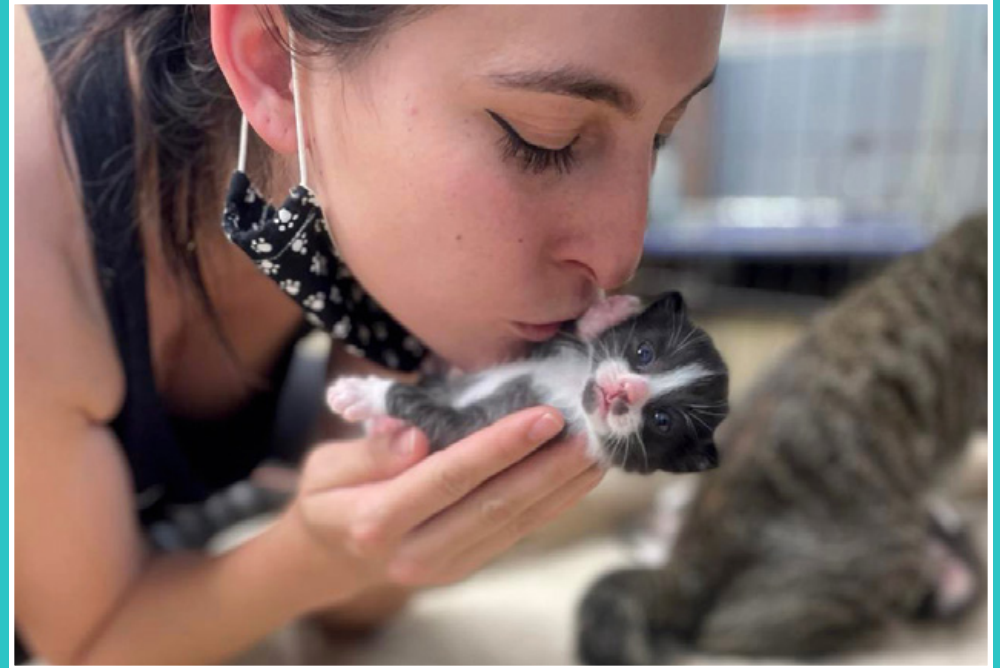


Bottle Baby Babysitter Club

We partnered with Kauai Humane Society on a creative solution to their need for overnight neonatal care. They found that they had difficulty providing care to kittens who came in through intake late in the day, and did not want to continually burn out the same staff members with the responsibility of taking these kittens home. So together, we created the Bottle Baby Babysitter Club!

The Bottle Baby Babysitter Club has created a safe place for kittens to await their long-term fosters while offering extra financial support to their compassionate staff. Rotating individual staff members will take the kittens home to provide the critical care needed until a foster home can be found. By having a rotating list of staff members who were willing to help, they had someone available even at the peak of the season! Throughout the year, there were over 70 nights that kittens went home with one or often more of their Bottle Baby Babysitters. In 2022 they have taken in over 525 neonatal kittens and have had great success with this new program!

KHS told us, “We have noticed a morale boost when kittens come in; we have never had to question if a kitten was going to make it through the night, and we haven’t had the burnout type of responses from staff that we did in years prior. “



Kauai, HI

FULL CIRCLE TNR

Orphan Kitten Club is helping to end the cycle of kittens being born outdoors through our unique sterilization program. Because nearly all of the kittens in our nursery had an origin story that began outside, we are committed to sterilizing community cats in the neighborhoods where our kittens were found. For every orphaned kitten we intake, we deploy a team of volunteers to humanely trap and sterilize the cats at the site, as well as to look for the mama and other kittens for purposes of reunification. Our Full Circle Program has been well received by the rescue community and has inspired other organizations to use a similar tactic. Every time we hear of groups using a "full circle approach" our hearts skip a beat!



This year our team of dedicated volunteers worked to help colony cats in more than 20 communities around San Diego! Way to go, team!



RESEARCH

We are thrilled to share that this year we have piloted our new research program. This innovative program funds and develops research studies to advance veterinary medicine for neonatal kittens. We partner with renowned universities to create ethical, non-invasive, observational research studies that will spark discovery, innovate treatment protocol, and move the needle for the care of pediatric felines. In 2022, our funding helped support two studies: one exploring the use of an antiviral medication for upper respiratory infections in kittens, and one exploring the treatment of ringworm in kittens. We are very proud to announce that from 2023–2025, Orphan Kitten Club is partnering with UC Davis to design, fund, and conduct a groundbreaking study about failure to thrive in the neonatal kitten population. The results from this study will be shared over the next several years, and we hope it will help identify treatable conditions which may save kittens' lives.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



orphankittenclub.org

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OKC graduates

