

# 2025 Shelter Grant Highlights



Photo: Southern Pines Animal Shelter





# Every kitten deserves a chance to become a mighty cat.

**Orphan Kitten Club's Mightycat grants equip partner shelters and rescues to build and expand innovative programs that save the lives of vulnerable kittens in their communities.**

As part of our network of 100+ partner organizations across 45 states, the grantees from the Fall 2024 - Fall 2025 cycle join a movement that has helped more than 90,000 kittens. With the grant term now complete, we're grateful to share the impact you've made possible.

*Photo: Southern Pines Animal Shelter*

# Highlights

**19**

partner shelters and rescues  
across 13 states received grants

**900+**

foster families were trained and  
supported

**10,000+**

vulnerable kittens received  
specialized care

For the youngest kittens,  
mortality rates improved to

**84%–95%**

Mortality rates in partner  
organizations decreased by up to

**79%**

Photo: The Runaways Animal Rescue





Photo: Laurel Cats, Inc



# The Challenge

Kittens under the age of eight weeks old face the highest risk of dying in shelters. **In 2024, nearly three out of four kitten deaths in U.S. shelters occurred in this vulnerable age group.**

These tiny lives depend on round-the-clock care, specialized medical attention, and dedicated foster networks. Without focused resources, many never get the chance to grow up.

**The Mightycat Innovation Grant was created to change that by directing critical support where it's needed most.**



# West Virginia: Building a Regional Safety Net

With a \$40,000 grant, **Western West Virginia Animal Rescue Alliance hired its first Regional Kitten Coordinator to support rural and underserved communities.** This role expanded their foster network from 12 to 38 trained families and enabled the rescue of more than 600 neonatal kittens.

*"Before the OKC grant, WWVARA would not have been able to offer this kind of support to rural shelters or handle the number of individual requests to care for neonatal kittens. It has been fulfilling to provide the supplies and connections to foster families who provide the care these kittens need to survive."*

## Mightycat Grant Impact

- 620 kittens impacted, including 200 aged 0-4 weeks
- 217% increase in specialized foster homes
- Established new regional partnerships with rural shelters lacking neonatal capacity
- Every finder of kittens received supplies and training to facilitate foster care!







**PROUD TO BE  
A #MIGHTYCAT  
PARTNER!**



# Kansas: Prison Foster Program

Helping Hands Humane Society used a \$40,000 grant to create **Kansas's first-ever Kitten Care Attendant position!**

*"Having a dedicated staff member to care exclusively for kittens has been the most beneficial thing we have ever done for this population of animals."*

This innovation sparked a **groundbreaking partnership with the state women's prison in Topeka**, empowering inmates to care for kittens within the prison facility.

*"We've had zero kitten deaths in the prison foster program. It's gone better than we could've imagined. Our live release rate for kittens under 12 weeks jumped to 84%, up from 67% in 2023."*

## Mightycat Grant Impact

- 550 kittens impacted through dedicated kitten care
- 25% improvement in live release rates
- Zero mortality in the innovative prison foster program
- Six families equipped to bottle-feed, keeping kittens out of the shelter entirely





# Washington: Dramatic Mortality Reduction

The NOAH Center used an \$8,500 grant to **build state-of-the-art neonatal care infrastructure**, including incubators and nebulizers that transformed their ability to save the tiniest kittens.

*"Having the incubator gives me peace of mind that the kittens are kept in a safe, warm place, especially during those 2 a.m. feedings! Without worrying about the temperatures dipping, I can get a little more sleep at night!"*  
– Foster Parent

## Mightycat Grant Impact

- 1,453 kittens impacted
- 79% reduction in bottle baby mortality (from 34% to just 7%)
- 370 foster families supported
- Faster URI recovery, allowing fosters to care for even more kittens



# Oklahoma: Neonate Support Program

Oklahoma Humane Society expanded its renowned neonatal program with a \$40,000 grant, **adding specialized equipment and a Kitten Care Specialist position.** This support led to the creation of the innovative "**Babysitter Club,**" designed to relieve foster families and prevent caregiver burnout.

One of the season's standout stories is Augustus, found alone in an attic at just ten days old and dangerously hypothermic. A grant-funded incubator was his first lifeline. With bottle feedings and medical care, Augustus not only survived but became the poster kitten for a major fundraising event.

## Mightycat Grant Impact

- 584 neonatal kittens received specialized care
- Maintained a 91% live release rate, even with an increase in fragile cases
- Feline Comfort Suite Kennel enabled safe care for feral mothers and their litters
- Enhanced foster kits with nebulizers, carriers, and heat disks







# Mississippi: Nursery Completion

Southern Pines Animal Shelter used their \$18,000 grant to complete the **Bitty Beans Nursery with specialized medical equipment and housing**, creating a model facility for underage kitten care.

*"The Orphan Kitten Club's Mightycat Innovation Grant has been such a gift for our tiniest kittens and the families who foster them. We now have the space and tools to give fragile kittens the best start possible."*

## Mightycat Grant Impact

- 277 kittens impacted during grant term
- 94.2% live release rate for kittens 0-12 weeks
- Successfully treated 90 URI cases, 50 diarrhea cases, 20 ringworm cases, and 6 panleukopenia cases
- State-of-the-art IDEXX equipment now enables rapid, in-house diagnostics



# California: Disaster Response Readiness

Pasadena Humane's \$7,000 grant investment in **foster training for medically fragile kittens** proved invaluable when the organization became **the lead responder for the devastating Eaton Fire**. Their prepared foster volunteers stepped in to care for vulnerable kittens with ringworm and panleukopenia, freeing critical quarantine space for fire-affected animals.

Barnacle, a 7-8 week old kitten with severe ringworm, exemplifies the program's success. A first-time foster took on his care, equipped with proper PPE and supplies — and then, once Barnacle was cleared, they adopted him!

## Mightycat Grant Impact

- 1,295 kittens impacted
- Foster volunteers trained in specialized care for ringworm and panleukopenia
- Critical infrastructure maintained during major disaster response
- Projected to serve 8,500 kittens over five years with 5-10% annual growth







# Innovative Lifesaving

## Florida – The Runaways Animal Rescue

Their Kitten Lifesaving Coordinator position led to a **59% increase in foster homes** and **improved live release rates** from 90.8% to 95.4%, supporting the rescue of **412 kittens**.

## California – Kitten Rescue Life

The "Wean on Me" project ensured **185 weaning-stage kittens received consistent nutrition through 10,507 meals**, supporting 22 foster homes and expanding their foster radius.

## Kansas – Lawrence Humane Society

**New treatment protocols and equipment** positioned the organization to impact **3,750 kittens** over five years through improved medical care.

## Georgia – Planned PETHood

Maintained a strong live release rate while caring for **143 bottle babies**, increasing foster homes and expanding their community education and training efforts.





# Your Impact

- Newborn kittens were given a chance to live
- Rural communities gained access to specialized care
- Foster families received the tools and support to save more lives
- Shelters established sustainable, replicable programs
- Best practices spread across the animal welfare community

**Each kitten saved represents not just a life preserved, but a foster family empowered, a community educated, and a future adoptive family forever changed.**

**From all of us at Orphan Kitten Club, and from the thousands of tiny kittens who now have their whole lives ahead of them, thank you.**