



# 2025

## Impact Report

# A Note of Gratitude

In 2026, we celebrate ten years of saving the littlest lives, and with that milestone comes renewed clarity of purpose. Throughout 2025, we laid the groundwork for this next chapter, thoughtfully shaping a new mission statement, strategic plan, and theory of change to guide the road ahead, along with refreshed branding and a new website that more fully reflect who we are and the future we are building together.

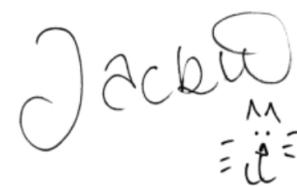
What began as a small effort to help kittens in my own community has grown into something far larger than I ever imagined. Because of this passionate community of supporters, Orphan Kitten Club now reaches across cities, states, and borders, ensuring that kittens born into the most fragile circumstances are met with expertise, resources, and the chance to thrive.

Thank you for being alongside us on our mission to change the world for kittens.

With gratitude,



**Hannah Shaw**  
Founder



**Jackie Noble**  
Executive Director



# Changing the world for kittens.

Our refreshed mission is both focused and far-reaching: to **change the world for kittens.**

Kittens under eight weeks old are more likely to die in shelters than any other animal. They arrive dependent and fragile, **their only chance at life hinging entirely on the people, resources, and systems in their orbit.**

Too often, those systems aren't designed with young kittens in mind. So we help build them.

**We equip partner shelters and rescues with the funds, tools, and knowledge they need to change their own communities for kittens.** We invest in pediatric veterinary research that advances how kittens are treated everywhere. And we channel generosity to where the gaps are greatest so support reaches the kittens who need it most — **from changing a singular kitten's world to changing the world for all of kittenkind.**



## **Our most impactful year yet!**

In 2025, your support helped us reach more communities, distribute more funds, and save more kittens than ever before.



# 46,565+

**kittens were impacted by Orphan Kitten Club in 2025!**

**\$889K** in kitten-focused grants funded

**231** grants awarded to partners

**146** partner organizations

# Milestones

Our **500<sup>th</sup> Mightycat grant** was distributed!



We launched our **Mightycat Mentor Program** to train kitten professionals across the country.



We provided **1,000 reusable heat disks** to kittens from coast to coast!



We reached **90,000 kittens impacted!**



We welcomed our new **Grant Program Manager, Suzy Clayton.**



We welcomed our new **Operations Coordinator, Dawn Barr.**



Photo by Pasadena Humane, California

**Changing health for kittens.**

# **Mightycat Medical Grants**



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



# Medical Grants

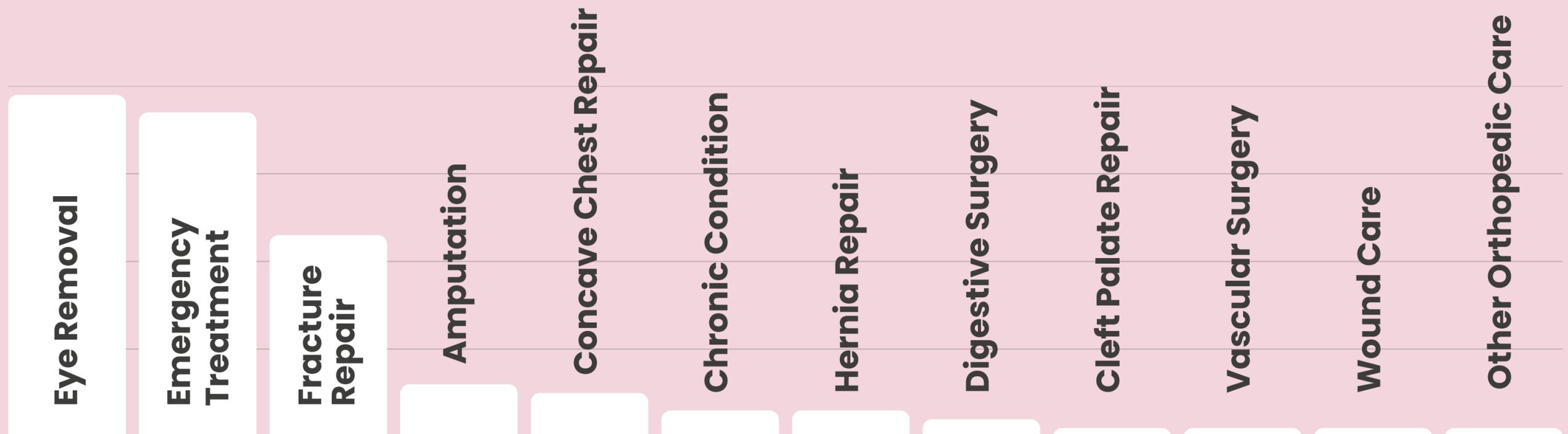
**\$250,860**

medical grant funds distributed

**122**

individual Mightycats received funding for medical care

## Most Common Lifesaving Procedures



# Legless Legolas

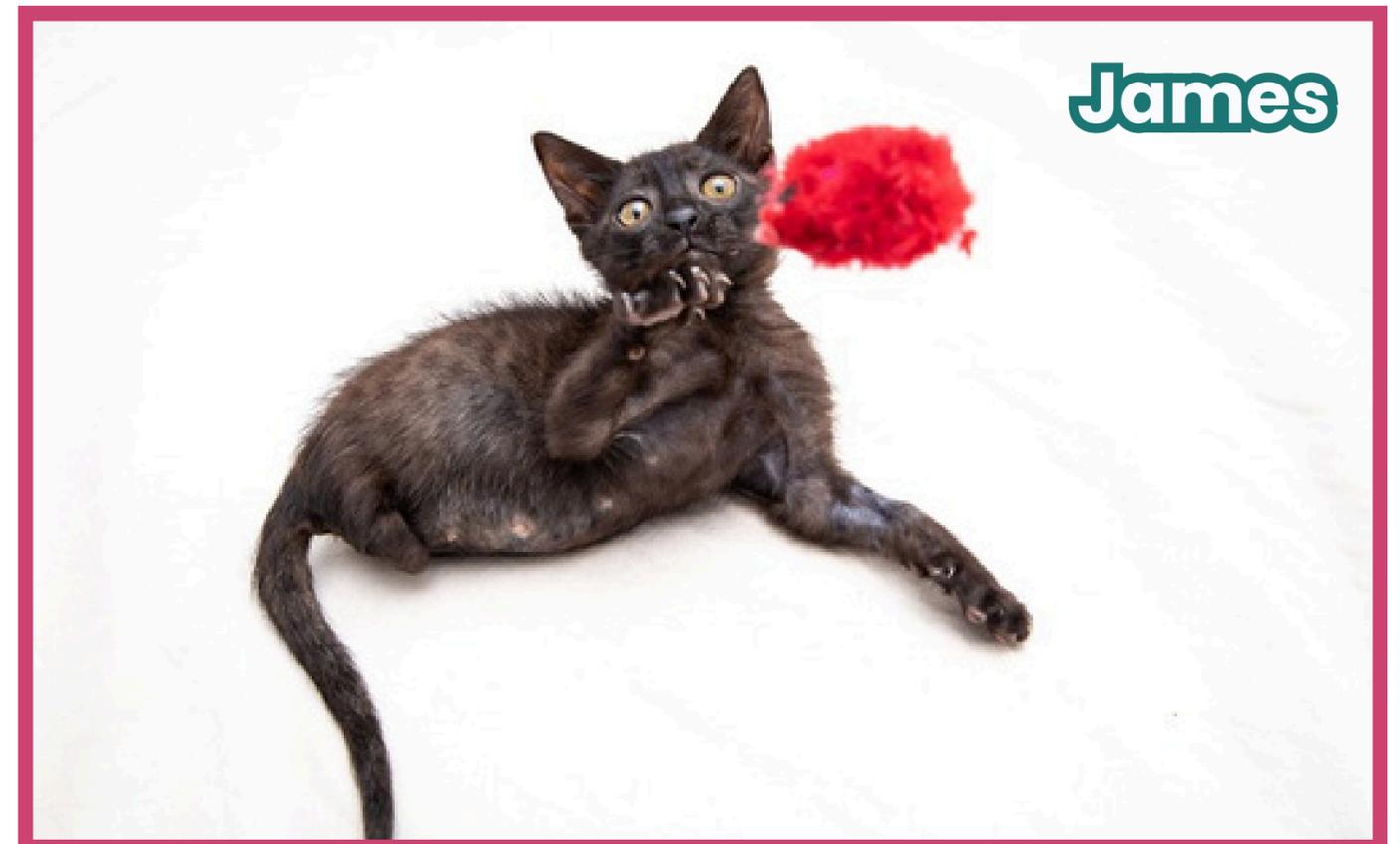
In 2020, Orphan Kitten Club rescued James, a tiny black kitten born without back legs. He grew up to live a full, joyous life, all because he was given a chance to.

**Five years later, another kitten needed that same chance.**

Legolas and his eight siblings arrived at The NOAH Center in Washington in a cardboard box. At just six weeks old, he barely weighed a pound, and **his back legs were so severely malformed that he required a double amputation.**

With a medical grant from Orphan Kitten Club, Legolas's surgery was covered. The day after the procedure, he was already pulling himself up in his recovery crate.

It turned out that Legolas had been home all along, because **his foster family adopted him!** Today, he chases the dogs and cats around the house, keeping up in his own way.



## Amaya



**Our 500th medical grant was awarded to Amaya**, a tiny tuxedo kitten rescued by The Runaways Animal Rescue in Florida. After she was **hit by a car and placed on the euthanasia list** due to the high cost of surgery, with the help of an OKC medical grant, **Amaya received the orthopedic surgery she needed** to unlock the rest of her life.

## Skittles



Skittles arrived at Waggytail Rescue in New York with a severely infected eye. Despite antibiotics and pain management, **her eye suddenly ruptured**. Skittles stopped playing, stopped eating, and just wasn't her bright little self anymore. **A medical grant covered the cost of surgery to remove the painful eye**. After surgery, Skittles felt much better!

## Hamburglar



**Hamburglar's sniffles turned into pneumonia**, and respiratory distress sent him to emergency hospitalization. X-rays, bloodwork, IV medications, and critical care piled up fast, but his team at Newborn Kitten Rescue in Arizona refused to give up. **Our medical grants helped cover the cost** so they could keep fighting. Today, Hamburglar is happy and healthy.

# The Mystery of Baby Corn

When an unusually tiny kitten named Baby Corn arrived at our partner Meow Parlour in New York, he quickly captured hearts and raised questions.

**Despite thriving as a bottle baby on formula from Orphan Kitten Club's Million Meals campaign, he simply never grew.**

To better understand why, **OKC partnered with Wisdom Panel for deeper diagnostic testing.**

Results ruled out hypothyroidism and more than 45 genetic health conditions. His DNA revealed a surprising breed mix (including 17% Norwegian Forest Cat and 11% Sphynx!), but no clear medical explanation for his small size or wobbly gait.

While the mystery remains, testing provided valuable insight and **helped advance care for vulnerable kittens nationwide**, with proceeds from Wisdom Panel supporting OKC's lifesaving work.

**69%** American Domestic Cat

**17%** Norwegian Forest Cat

**11%** Sphynx

**3%** European Domestic Cat



Photo by Southern Pines Animal Shelter, Mississippi

**Changing empowerment for kittens.**

# Shelter Grants



# Shelter Grants

**\$637,917**

invested in kitten-focused initiatives

**109**

grants funded

## Grant Types Funded

**\$215K**

Supplies & Formula

**\$209K**

Kitten-Focused Shelter Staff

**\$116K**

Infrastructure

**\$30K**

Veterinary Programs

**\$26K**

Kitten Prevention

**\$42K**

Other Kitten Initiatives



In 2025, we published a booklet highlighting the most impactful Shelter Grant projects we funded in this cycle. **[Read the full report!](#)**

# Heat Wave Warms Kittens Across the U.S.

The Heat Wave campaign was Orphan Kitten Club's strategic shelter grant initiative for 2025, and it focused on one simple, lifesaving need: warmth.

Young kittens can't regulate their body temperature, and without a consistent heat source, even healthy kittens can quickly decline.

**The campaign set an ambitious goal to provide 500 reusable heat disks to partner shelters and rescues.** With a generous match from The Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation, **supporters helped double the impact, delivering 1,000 heat disks nationwide!**



**VIDEO:** See the kittens kept warm by the Heat Wave campaign!



*Photo by Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland, Maine*



*Photo by Animal Care and Protective Services, Florida*

## Staffing



Helping Hands Humane Society in Kansas used a \$40,000 grant to create **Kansas's first-ever Kitten Care Attendant position**, a role that ensures kittens in the shelter receive the frequent, hands-on care they need. This innovation also sparked a **groundbreaking foster partnership with the state women's prison** in Topeka, empowering inmates to care for kittens within the prison.

## Supplies



With support from a \$7,850 grant, Laurel Cats in Maryland rebuilt after a devastating panleukopenia outbreak depleted supplies and claimed young lives. **This grant equipped fosters with the items they needed:** incubators, bottle-feeding kits, PPE, and more. The effort **supported 150 kittens, increased live release rates by 8%**, and laid a foundation for years ahead.

## Spaces



With an \$18,000 grant, Southern Pines Animal Shelter in Mississippi transformed its kitten care with **The Bitty Beans Nursery, a dedicated space designed for the most vulnerable lives**. The upgraded nursery includes incubators, cozy kennels, medical and training areas, and storage. Even during a tough disease year, the team **helped 277 kittens and achieved a 94.2% save rate**.

# URI Research in Action

In 2024, an Orphan Kitten Club-funded study at UC Davis revealed that kittens with upper respiratory infections recover more quickly when the drug Famciclovir is incorporated into their treatment plan.

In 2025, **our partner Lawrence Humane Society in Kansas turned that knowledge into action!** With a grant from OKC, the shelter revolutionized its clinical practices, introducing new treatment standards that help kittens recover faster from not only upper respiratory infections, but also ringworm and diarrhea. The grant funded key supplies and medications, including Famciclovir.

**During the grant term, 248 kittens were directly impacted: 116 treated for diarrhea, 106 for URIs, and 26 for ringworm.** By cutting recovery times dramatically, the team was able to move kittens through care and onto the adoption floor faster than ever before. Fosters have noticed the difference too, sharing how thrilled they are to see kittens regain health in a fraction of the usual time.



**Changing knowledge for kittens.**

# Mightycat Mentorship



# Partners Converge at OKC for Mentorship

Orphan Kitten Club launched the brand new Mightycat Mentorship Program in 2025 to **strengthen neonatal kitten care in shelters nationwide by pairing funding with hands-on training.**

The program provides grants to create dedicated kitten staff positions and brings teams to San Diego Humane Society for immersive learning alongside Orphan Kitten Club and Kitten Lady.

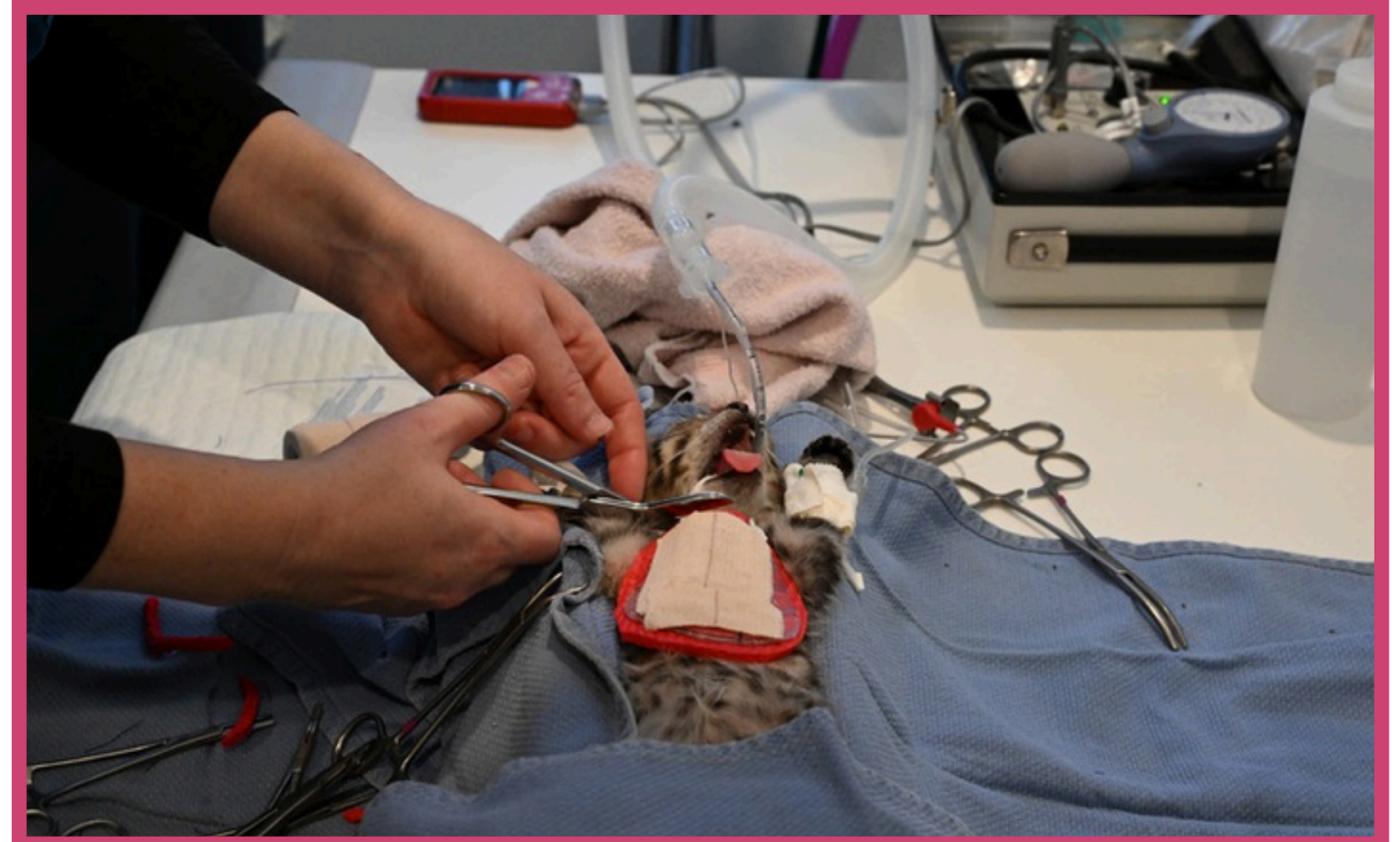
In 2025, professionals from Riverside County Animal Services, Maui Humane Society, and Helping Hands Humane Society trained together in San Diego, gaining specialized skills and support. By investing in trained staff and mentorship, **the program builds lasting capacity inside shelters, helping more vulnerable kittens survive and creating a scalable model to save lives across the country.**



# Saving Goose & Sharing Knowledge

During a rainstorm, a tiny kitten named Goose was found alone and brought to The Little Lion Foundation in California. What began as a simple upper respiratory infection quickly became something far more serious when **he was diagnosed with pectus excavatum, a life-threatening chest deformity that made every breath a struggle.**

A Mightycat Medical Grant covered the cost of Goose's operation. **The procedure was led by OKC veterinarian Dr. Rachel Wallach, who used the surgery as a hands-on mentorship opportunity.** Veterinary professionals and students observed, assisted, and learned the surgical technique in real time, gaining the knowledge and skills required to save the lives of other kittens with pectus excavatum. **Goose's surgery advanced pediatric veterinary medicine and expanded lifesaving expertise for fragile kittens everywhere.**



*Photo by the Itty Bitty Kitty Brigade in Minnesota*

**Changing the future for kittens.**

# Ethical Research

Dorito is being treated for ocular FIP with support from an OKC grant.



# FIP & Uveitis Study

Uveitis, or eye inflammation, is a relatively common finding in kittens, but it is not always straightforward. In some cases, this inflammation can resolve with supportive care alone. In others, it may be the first visible sign of something far more serious, such as **feline infectious peritonitis (FIP), a systemic and life-threatening disease.**

A 2025 study partially funded by Orphan Kitten Club and published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association examined similar-looking cases and found that **careful exams and thorough diagnostics are essential to distinguish self-limiting uveitis from FIP-associated uveitis.**

For Plum, a kitten adopted from partner shelter Roice-Hurst Humane Society in Colorado, uveitis prompted deeper evaluation. **That careful approach led to an early FIP diagnosis, timely treatment, and a full recovery.**

For kittens nationwide, this research supports earlier, more accurate diagnosis, appropriate care, and more lives saved.



**Changing care for kittens.**

# **Kitten Nursery**

**Cassie & String Bean**

# String Bean the Miracle Kitten

String Bean and his siblings arrived at a high-volume shelter as newborns with the odds stacked against them. **He was cold, dehydrated, and barely clinging to life.** Arriving at OKC's nursery just in time, String Bean received **around-the-clock intensive care that stabilized him and carried him through his most vulnerable hours.**

As he grew stronger, **String Bean found comfort and companionship in his sister, Cassie, who was healing from a leg injury of her own.** Together, supported by hands-on love, stubborn hope, and skilled care, the duo transformed into healthy, playful, spunky kittens.

Cases like theirs demand extraordinary effort, but they are among the most rewarding. **String Bean and Cassie were ultimately adopted together,** flipping an uncertain beginning into a shared future.



**Strawberry**



# Strawberry & Rhubarb

Strawberry and Rhubarb arrived at Orphan Kitten Club just days apart, **each battling severe eye infections that had already caused irreversible damage to their vision.** Though they came from different places, their paths soon converged in our nursery.

Once their pain was under control and they were healthy enough to share a space, the duo became roommates. From that moment on, they were inseparable. **Learning to navigate the world without sight together, they adapted quickly and confidently.**

Because their eye disease was painful and untreatable, **all four of their eyes were surgically removed.** After healing, Strawberry and Rhubarb were adopted into a loving home together!

Eye disease remains one of the most serious medical challenges facing kittens. **Strawberry and Rhubarb show that blindness is not a barrier to a full life, and that with the right medical care and support, kittens facing even the most significant challenges can thrive.**



## Yuzu



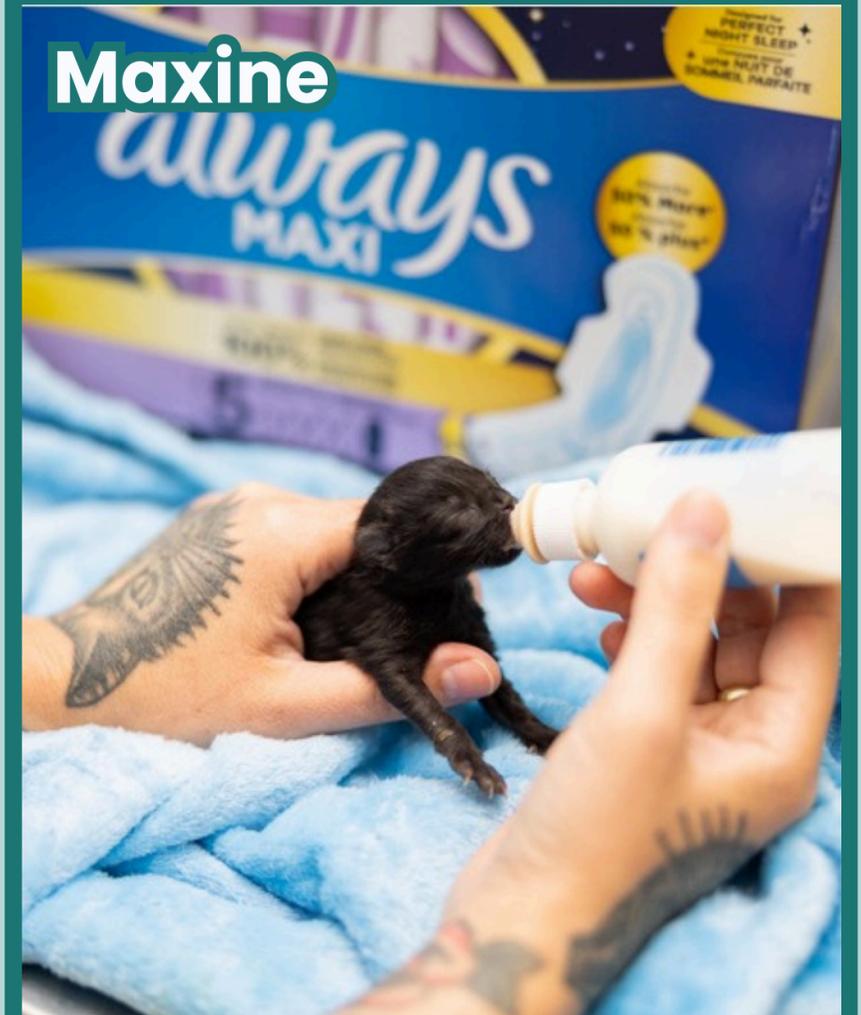
**Yuzu arrived with severe damage to one eye after it ruptured** as a result of feline herpesvirus. To relieve her pain and prevent further complications, she underwent an enucleation to remove the nonfunctional eye. She recovered quickly and has since been adopted, **moving through the world with the same confidence and curiosity as any kitten.**

## Piglet



Piglet arrived as a transfer from Pasadena Humane in California to help **make space for animals displaced by the California wildfires.** He came with a **broken leg**, and a **healed head wound** suggested he had experienced trauma early in life. Despite it all, Piglet was affectionate and playful. **He healed up nicely and is now happily adopted!**

## Maxine



Kittens arrive at shelters in all sorts of containers – **Maxine's vehicle of choice was a maxi pad box!** Maxine was just a newborn when she arrived late in the day at a partner shelter, and **without overnight care, she wouldn't have survived.** With around-the-clock love and care in the OKC nursery, **Maxine grew bigger and stronger every day until she was adopted!**

**Earl Grey**



# Thank you, Club Members!

Not a member?  
[Join the Club!](#)

The generosity of our Club Members is changing the world for kittens in ways both intimate and far-reaching. Within these pages, that impact is reflected in the stories of individual kittens whose lives were transformed through accessible care, innovative initiatives, and compassionate hearts. Beyond them, it extends into something larger: a growing network of shelters strengthened, knowledge shared, and resources directed where they can save the most lives.

**Thank you for helping shape not only the futures of the kittens we know by name, but the future of kittens everywhere.**

## Club members received these exclusive trading cards in 2025:

