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**BEST
FRIENDS**

ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION TO BRING ABOUT A TIME WHEN THERE ARE NO MORE HOMELESS PETS®

ON THE COVER

Zebra, a kitten adopted from Best Friends in Salt Lake City. 2024 was a milestone year for America's cats and kittens, with the number of cats killed in shelters reaching an all-time low.

FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

2024: A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

In 2024, Best Friends celebrated a major milestone: 40 years of saving lives and creating a brighter future for homeless pets.

Back in 1984, no one knew how many shelters existed in the country, let alone how many were no-kill. The journey to achieve no-kill nationwide would be an extraordinary undertaking. But every monumental change begins somewhere. Ours started in Angel Canyon at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary with a group of friends equipped only with hand tools, grit, and a shared belief that kindness to animals could create a better world for all of us. With each structure built, life saved, and new voice added to the cause, our movement grew.

Since then, we've made incredible progress together. Today, nearly 2 out of every 3 shelters are no-kill, with hundreds more just steps away from reaching this goal. In the past year, five state governors signed no-kill proclamations, and places as big as New York City and as small as Lodi, California, joined the ranks of no-kill communities. Our lifesaving momentum is greater than ever, with over 5,000 shelter and rescue partners, plus thousands of compassionate people like you, working together to bring the country to no-kill.

The same belief that motivated us more than 40 years ago continues to drive us today. The difference is that now the path ahead is clear. We know how to save lives — and how to help shelters save even more. The lifesaving accomplishments you made possible in 2024 are propelling us forward, giving us the momentum to help even more shelters achieve no-kill in 2025. Every shelter that crosses this threshold brings us closer to the future we've been building together.

As you'll see in this report, no-kill nationwide is no longer just a dream — it's becoming a reality. With your help, we're making it happen, and we are deeply grateful to you for being part of this journey.

Together, we will Save Them All.



Julie Castle

Julie Castle
CEO



Francis Battista

Francis Battista
Co-founder and
board chair



Sandy, Sego, and Richard

Sego lands a home

Sego was a shy guy who needed time to trust people. When Richard and Sandy Garrett met him while volunteering at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, they were patient and slowly bonded with Sego through outings and sleepovers. “He was usually so excited to see his roommate, Destiny, when we dropped him off at the Sanctuary after a sleepover,” says Richard. “But the last time we dropped him off, he ran to the fence instead and just watched us leave.” Sandy and Richard couldn’t stop thinking about Sego and decided to give him the loving home he deserves. Now, Sego enjoys his days playing with the hose, going on walks, and soaking up affection as a cherished member of his new family.


FISCAL YEAR: OCTOBER 2023 - SEPTEMBER 2024


2024 AT A GLANCE


17,848 
animals adopted through Best Friends programs, promotions, and events

7,942 
dogs and cats placed in Best Friends foster homes

20,673 
animals spayed or neutered by Best Friends

8,872 
pets transported by Best Friends

17,927 
animals welcomed across all Best Friends locations

40 
legislative wins gained on behalf of the animals, including 16 statewide wins

125,000 
grassroots advocates who drove change in their communities

12,544 
amazing volunteers who gave 523,215 hours across all our programs

5,021 
Best Friends Network Partners

\$17M+ 
in funding provided by Best Friends and you to 964 network partners and other organizations

A YEAR OF HOPE, HEALING, AND HOMES

For over 40 years, saving animals has been our most fundamental calling at Best Friends. In April, the Dogtown team at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary learned about over 100 small dogs in a home in Socorro, New Mexico, and they immediately stepped in to help. Collaborating with the City of Socorro Animal Shelter and Animal Humane New Mexico, they gave the dogs a second chance. For Spork and 16 other pups, that second chance was at the Sanctuary, where they joined the 2,683 animals welcomed in 2024.

Caring for thousands of animals takes skill in addition to compassion. At Best Friends Animal Clinic, veterinary professionals treated an estimated 6,600 animals last year. To safeguard the Sanctuary from the national veterinarian shortage and ensure continued care for generations of animals to come, we launched the Megan Salzman Medica and John Kevin Medica Veterinary Scholarship. The first recipient of the scholarship, Best Friends employee Caroline Milleson, will receive assistance with tuition and living expenses in exchange for a post-graduate commitment to work at the Sanctuary clinic.

Bringing care to the Navajo Nation

While the Sanctuary is at the heart of everything we do, we've expanded our reach to provide essential veterinary care to our neighbors on the Navajo Nation, the largest reservation in the U.S. In 2024, Best Friends launched a spay/neuter mobile clinic, made possible by longtime supporters Marty and Brenda Winnick, to address the great need for these services. The clinic is helping keep pets healthy and in their homes with the families who love them.

Between January and September, the mobile clinic team performed 8,893 procedures, including vaccinations, spay/neuter surgeries, and microchipping for 2,317 animals. The clinic is part of a larger effort to collaborate with Navajo Nation Animal Control, local leaders, and other organizations. Together, we are working to provide essential resources, reduce the free-roaming dog population, and help support the Navajo Nation's shelters.

Expanding lifesaving efforts across the country

Our commitment to being a good neighbor went beyond the Navajo Nation, as we expanded our lifesaving efforts to more shelters and communities across the U.S. Through Best Friends' lifesaving centers and programs in Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Houston, New York City, and Bentonville, Arkansas, we became critical resources for both local and regional shelters. In 2024, about 30% of the animals welcomed into our centers came from more than 100 miles away — often from small, under-resourced shelters.

Thanks to the welcoming adoption experience at our locations and widespread calls to adopt, more pets landed homes through Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, lifesaving centers, and hubs in 2024 than in any of the previous five years. With your help, 14,252 animals from Best Friends and 3,596 animals from shelter and rescue partners were adopted. The return of Best Friends Super Adoption events in Los Angeles and Bentonville also helped place nearly 600 pets in loving homes. Together, we're not just giving animals a second chance — we're building unstoppable lifesaving momentum and a future where all pets have a place to call home.

A trio of smiles at the 2024 L.A. Super Adoption Spork, who got a second chance at the Sanctuary Hutton, a kitten who received care at Best Friends Animal Clinic





A YEAR OF LIFESAVING COLLABORATION

For Christy Wilson, being the sole employee at Glen Rose Animal Control in Texas meant being on call 24/7 — a responsibility that comes with the territory of saving lives every day. But even the most dedicated individuals need support. For Christy, that support came through the Prince and Paws Shelter Collaborative Program. Named after the beloved pets of its principal investor, the program pairs shelters working toward no-kill with mentors from no-kill organizations.

In 2024, the program shifted its focus to support smaller, under-resourced shelters, like Glen Rose, that have great potential to contribute to no-kill momentum nationwide. With support from her mentors at Operation Kindness, a lifesaving leader in Texas, Christy was able to hire an additional staff member, launch a foster program, and begin hosting adoption events — putting Glen Rose on the path to no-kill.

Equipping shelters for success

Christie’s story is just one example of how, with your help, Best Friends provided critical support to shelters across the country through mentorship, training, and resources last year. In 2024, our national shelter support team held 91 training sessions, reaching 1,608 shelter staff and volunteers. These sessions covered a broad range of topics — from improving shelter operations to enhancing disease control and veterinary care — equipping shelters with the tools they need to achieve a 90% save rate, the benchmark for no-kill.

Additionally, the Best Friends Network experienced record growth in 2024, with 572 new shelters, rescue

groups, and other animal welfare organizations joining. Through initiatives like the Return to Home and Bring Love Home challenges, participating groups made significant strides in reuniting lost pets with their families, boosting adoptions, and recruiting more foster families. These efforts helped thousands of animals find their way into loving homes, ensuring that lifesaving work continued to spread across the nation.

Answering the call to help

While building lifesaving momentum is essential, maintaining it in the face of unexpected challenges is just as critical. When Miami-Dade Animal Services in Florida faced a deadly outbreak of Streptococcus (aka “Strep zoo”) that threatened 800 dogs, Best Friends’ shelter medicine team was called in to help. By implementing new protocols and providing swift treatment, the team was able to contain the outbreak and save hundreds of lives, ensuring the shelter maintained its 91% save rate.

Similarly, after Hurricane Helene devastated North Carolina in September, Best Friends teamed up with Providence Animal Center and the Massachusetts SPCA to provide care through a mobile veterinary clinic. This collaborative effort served 1,145 pets, including Ricardo Blanco, a miracle kitty who survived floodwaters and was reunited with his family after receiving emergency care. Whether Best Friends was assisting with everyday operations or responding to urgent crises, we were there because of you — and together, we’ll continue making a lasting impact in shelters across the country.



Staff walks dogs at Pima Animal Care Center, a Best Friends Network Partner. Ricardo Blanco with volunteers from the hurricane response team and Nan, his family member



A dedicated Best Friends volunteer shares some snuggles with Chuckles. Zoomies come to the Best Friends Lifesaving Center in New York, along with the No. 48 car. A sample advertisement from the 2024 Bring Love Home campaign

Best Friends pups exchange glances after ringing the New York Stock Exchange bell.

A YEAR OF ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

Every day, people like you make a difference in the lives of homeless pets. But it's the collective action — the sum of all these individual efforts — that drives transformative change. In 2024, Best Friends continued to build lifesaving momentum through public awareness campaigns, strategic partnerships, and impactful policy changes.

Amplifying the cause

The path to no-kill nationwide requires widespread awareness. In 2024, Best Friends launched the Bring Love Home campaign, a national effort to inspire more families to adopt rather than buy pets. The campaign's PSA, which premiered in New York City's Times Square in April, reached 143 million people, calling on animal lovers to help get more dogs and cats out of shelters and into homes.

Our message spread even further through collaborations with *The Golden Bachelor*, *Deadpool & Wolverine*, and *Arthur the King*. Additionally, Sonny, a puppy from our New York City lifesaving center, played for Team Ruff in *Puppy Bowl XX*, and Best Friends CEO Julie Castle appeared on *The Kelly Clarkson Show* and the *Six Degrees with Kevin Bacon* podcast. NASCAR driver Alex Bowman of Hendrick Motorsports, along with sponsor Ally Racing, helped "bring zoomies home" by showcasing Best Friends on the No. 48 car and visiting our center in New York. To top it all off, Best Friends rang the New York Stock Exchange bell, amplifying the message in a big way.

Shaping policy for animals

While public awareness is essential, lasting change requires strong policy and legislative action. In 2024, Best Friends helped secure two landmark state-level commitments for no-kill. Utah Gov. Spencer Cox declared 2024 as No-Kill Shelter Year, positioning the state to become the largest no-kill state in the U.S. Meanwhile, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed a proclamation for Virginia Loves Shelter Animals Month, with the goal of achieving a no-kill Virginia in 2025. These victories set a powerful precedent, inspiring other states to follow suit.

Best Friends also celebrated 40 legislative wins across 17 states, addressing critical issues such as breed-specific laws, puppy mills, and community cat ordinances. The city council in North Little Rock, Arkansas, unanimously adopted an ordinance change allowing for trap-neuter-vaccinate-return for community cats — a pivotal victory that will save lives, reduce community cat populations, and help local shelters.

Harnessing the power of people

The 2025 Action Team, Best Friends' grassroots advocacy group, laid the foundation for these legislative wins and fueled lifesaving momentum in communities across the country. Growing to over 125,000 advocates in 2024, the team sent messages to lawmakers, gathered more than 9,400 petition signatures, and took over 2,800 actions during National Action Week for Animals.

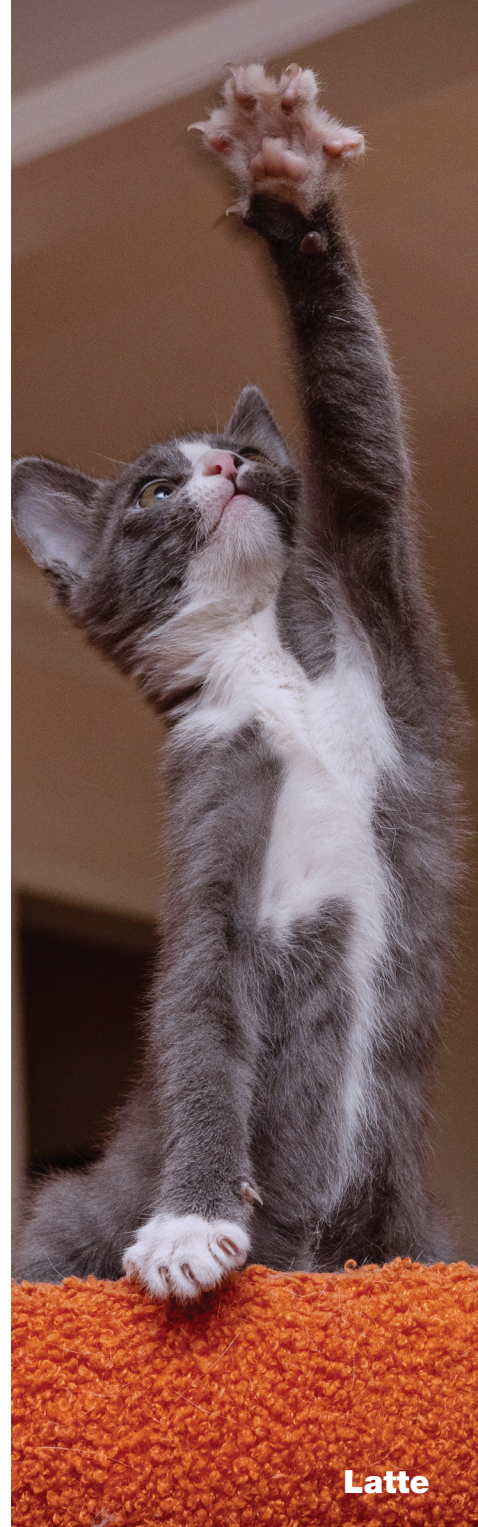
Volunteers were also instrumental in turning action into change. One of the most impactful volunteer efforts involved flagging pet sales ads in online marketplaces, which often violated the platforms' terms of service. Last year, Best Friends volunteers dedicated 3,098 hours to removing 743,840 of these ads — demonstrating that, together, we're making a difference one action, one policy, and one voice at a time.

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2024

(With comparison to the period as of September 30, 2023)

	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,225,654	\$ -
Contribution and legacy receivables, net	5,572,361	22,598,337
Prepays and other assets	10,090,631	9,229,674
Investments - general purpose	39,754,555	52,653,706
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	1,667,834	3,156,861
Investments - restricted:		
Charitable gift annuities	20,406,817	14,926,548
Endowments	8,767,200	7,924,120
Property and equipment, net	93,480,200	87,691,249
Operating lease right-of-use assets	1,798,184	2,137,090
Finance lease right-of-use assets	108,736	65,342
Interest in perpetual trusts and charitable remainder trusts	17,700,029	15,923,464
Total assets	\$ 200,572,201	\$ 216,306,391
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 15,265,651	\$ 14,498,823
Line of credit	-	2,834,296
Charitable gift annuities	4,960,023	4,463,425
Other liabilities	2,839,453	2,892,101
Operating lease liabilities	1,938,735	2,306,597
Finance lease liabilities	117,852	68,261
Notes payable, net of issuance costs	34,510,815	37,237,322
Total liabilities	59,632,529	64,300,825
Commitments and contingencies		
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	59,726,289	58,648,976
Designated	45,052,713	57,390,803
	104,779,002	116,039,779
With donor restrictions	36,160,670	35,965,787
Total net assets	140,939,672	152,005,566
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 200,572,201	\$ 216,306,391



Latte

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statements of Activities

As of September 30, 2024

(With comparison to the period as of September 30, 2023)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2024 Total	2023 Total
Revenues, support, and reclassifications:				
Contributions of cash and other financial assets	\$ 123,607,888	\$ 15,494,335	\$ 139,102,223	\$ 165,326,790
Contributions of nonfinancial assets	146,197,635	-	146,197,635	190,459,713
Program events	764,037	-	764,037	465,355
Other revenue	4,571,413	-	4,571,413	3,236,385
Net assets released from restrictions	14,637,329	(14,637,329)	-	-
Total revenues, support, and reclassifications	289,778,302	857,006	290,635,308	359,488,243
Expenses:				
Sanctuary activities including animal care (excluding in-kind)	37,660,759	23,326	37,684,085	30,899,050
In-kind animal food, supplies, medical, and other	1,235,321	-	1,235,321	2,703,219
National and regional programs (excluding in-kind)	89,329,476	1,893,883	91,223,359	75,248,162
In-kind advertising	142,671,126	-	142,671,126	186,706,146
Management and general	12,500,575	303,657	12,804,232	12,426,754
Fundraising	29,328,224	-	29,328,224	26,314,441
Total expenses	312,725,481	2,220,866	314,946,347	334,297,772
Increase (decrease) in net assets before other income (expenses)	(22,947,179)	(1,363,860)	(24,311,039)	25,190,471
Other income (expenses):				
Other expenses and losses	(1,462,882)	-	(1,462,882)	(1,599,097)
Interest and dividend income, net	2,566,082	67,168	2,633,250	2,050,935
Realized and unrealized net investment gain	11,551,646	1,491,575	13,043,221	5,760,112
Roadhouse Hotel and Mercantile expenses, net of revenues	(957,770)	-	(957,770)	(752,317)
Net loss on disposal of assets	(10,674)	-	(10,674)	(276,559)
Total other income (expenses)	11,686,402	1,558,743	13,245,145	5,183,074
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(11,260,777)	194,883	(11,065,894)	30,373,545
Net assets at beginning of the year	116,039,779	35,965,787	152,005,566	121,632,021
Net assets at end of the year	\$ 104,779,002	\$ 36,160,670	\$ 140,939,672	\$ 152,005,566

Complete audited financial statements can be found at bestfriends.org/financial-information.

"In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." Tanner LLC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Francis Battista, chair
 Lynn Flanders, treasurer
 Abby Jones, vice chair

Anne Mejia, secretary
 Julie Castle, CEO
 Gregory Castle, CEO emeritus

Denise Clark
 Micarl Hill
 Cyrus Mejia

Oke Mueller
 Phefelia Nez
 Lona Williams

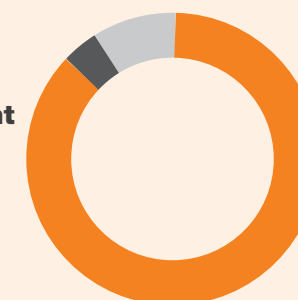
Best Friends is proud to have received the following seals of approval in 2024.



2024 FROM AUDITED STATEMENT

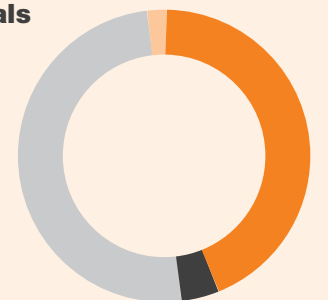
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- Programs**
\$272,813,891 (87%)
- General & Management**
\$12,804,232 (4%)
- Fundraising**
\$29,328,224 (9%)



REVENUE

- Donations from Individuals**
\$128,658,613 (44%)
- Corporate and Foundation Gifts**
\$10,443,610 (4%)
- In-Kind Donations**
\$146,197,635 (50%)
- Other**
\$5,335,450 (2%)



FORWARD MOMENTUM

Because of you, there was much to celebrate in 2024 — including a record year of lifesaving for cats. For dogs, however, the situation is still urgent: Despite a boost in dog adoptions last year, the number of dogs killed in shelters increased.

That's why, in 2024, we began leaning into the momentum of small wins and accomplishments that lead to greater success. The reality is that hundreds of shelters are on the verge of becoming no-kill — they just need a little help to get there. Whether it's bringing a few dogs to a Best Friends Lifesaving Center for adoption or helping shelters launch a foster program, we're there to help because of you.

One of those shelters is Rankin County Animal Shelter in Mississippi, where Best Friends employee Emily Hirtle worked throughout 2024 to help the shelter save more dogs and cats. The result? Rankin County's save rate increased from 50% in 2023 to 73% in 2024. Emily's dedication was also recognized by Southern Living magazine, which named her one of their 2024 Southerners of the Year.



Best Friends employee Emily Hirtle poses with her rescued dogs, from left to right: Oliver, Benjamin, Minnie, and Bulleit.

Photo courtesy of Robbie Caponetto, Southern Living magazine

THANK YOU.

You made 2024 a year to remember, with remarkable progress and meaningful moments for dogs and cats across the country. Your constant support not only made all the lifesaving possible but has also launched us into 2025 stronger and more determined than ever. As we move forward together into this pivotal year, we remain deeply committed to achieving no-kill nationwide. From the animals, from our partners, and from everyone at Best Friends: thank you.

ON THE BACK COVER

Clockwise from top left: Chili, Zapp, Canape, and Putney, all from Best Friends locations

A special thank-you to Blue Buffalo, our official pet food and treats partner, and Fresh Step, our official litter partner, for generously providing food, treats, and litter to the animals at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and our lifesaving centers.

