

## Help Us Help Local Pets In Need

According to Best Friends Animal Society, HSGS is now the largest no-kill shelter in the state of Georgia outside of Atlanta! This is no small task and our team works diligently to provide top notch medical care for our animals, low-cost spay/neuter for our community, and safe shelter and enrichment for our animals to help find their new family. Thank you for continuing to support us and our animals.



### 2023 Highlights

- **12,868** pets visited our low-cost clinic Pet Fix Savannah for vaccinations or surgery. Our team of 3 Veterinarians has performed 8,695 spay/neuter surgeries in the last 12 months and over the summer we completed our 50,000th spay/neuter surgery since opening in 2016!
- Our TNVR collaboration with Chatham County Animal Services continues to be the most impactful life-saving program in our community. 1,281 community cats were diverted from Chatham County Animal Services, spayed or neutered at Pet Fix Savannah and returned to their communities. In total, we have TNVRd 2,572 cats this year from 15 different counties in Georgia & South Carolina.
- We have been awarded a 2 year grant from Best Friends to help other shelters in Georgia and South Carolina reach no-kill status. Our team will work with about 25 shelters in our region to start & fund lifesaving programs.
- HSGS is the largest no-kill shelter in the state (outside of Atlanta) and in the last 12 months we have found homes for 2,519 animals including 1,720 cats, 662 dogs, 70 guinea pigs, 26 rabbits, 14 hamsters, 8 birds, 7 gerbils, 5 rats, 4 ferrets and 3 bearded dragons.



Our cost of care has increased dramatically over the last few years. Inflation has driven our cost of care per animal from \$260 in 2021 to \$401 in 2023. We need your support now more than ever!

Our team of staff and volunteers is ready to do the hard work and the animals in our care need your support - thank you!

Sincerely,

Sean Griffin, Executive Director  
(and Marty, Assistant to the Executive Director)

## Pet Fix Savannah Reaches 50,000 Surgeries

This year HSGS celebrated the completion of 50,000 spay and neuter surgeries at our Pet Fix Savannah clinic. Pet Fix opened in February of 2016 and now averages nearly 9,000 surgeries per year. The milestone represents the efficiency of the Pet Fix staff and the community-wide effort that is required to reduce the number of pets without homes in the Savannah area.

Pet Fix offers an array of pet healthcare services at a reduced cost while ensuring the highest level of care. The clinic is open to the public and offers vaccines, testing, flea/tick medication, heartworm preventatives, spay/neuter and TNVR services for community cats. Learn more at [petfixsav.org](http://petfixsav.org).

## CHATHAM 90 COALITION



HSGS is proud to have been a leader in forming the Chatham 90 Coalition. Chatham 90 is an alliance of Chatham County animal shelters, rescues, veterinarians and volunteers working to connect pets and their people with the resources they need. The goal of Chatham 90 is to make Chatham County a no-kill community and hit the national benchmark of a 90% save rate community-wide. HSGS is already well above that benchmark but as a community our combined save rate was 82% in 2022.

For the first time, all of our animal welfare groups are meeting and collaborating on life saving programming. Our first initiative was to launch a lost/found program on the Chatham90.org website. 38% of the 4,922 pets that entered shelters in 2022 were lost or stray dogs and cats. Pets reported to Chatham County Animal Services as lost/found or stray are now available for viewing online in hopes of increasing the chances of finding their owner.

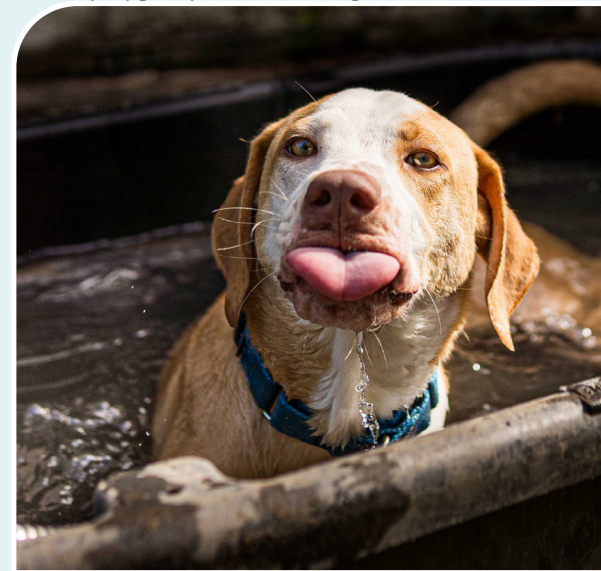
A no-kill community is ultimately one that acts on the belief that every healthy, adoptable dog and cat should be saved, and that its focus should be on saving as many lives as possible through pet adoption, spay/neuter, cat trap neuter return and other community support programs.



## PLAYGROUPS

One of the biggest challenges we face in our Adoption Center is keeping our dogs mentally and physically sound while they wait for their new family. Kennel stress can lead to undesirable behaviors and a longer stay in our Adoption Center. While our dogs get walked by staff and volunteers at least twice a day, they still spend a majority of their time alone in a kennel. That's why our Behavior and Enrichment team chose to focus on growing our playgroup program this year. Dogs are social animals, so our team works to match them up with a few friends that they can spend a few hours with chasing each other around, playing with toys and even taking a dip in our pools!

To date, our team has formed over 300 playgroups! As new dogs arrive and other dogs get adopted our Trainer works to form groups of new friends. We've even had as many as 12 dogs in one of our dog yards playing together! After playgroup time, the dogs head back to their kennels, we turn off the lights, play some calming music and they get an hour of nap time before we open to the public. Implementing playgroups when we are open to the public is the next phase of our plan. At our Fall Fair this year, we had playgroups running while we were open - dogs that had been in our Adoption Center for 3 to 7 months were among the 24 adoptions that day. When adopters see dogs playing with other dogs they get to see their true personality (outside of a kennel) and it turns out they are more likely to add them as a new family member.



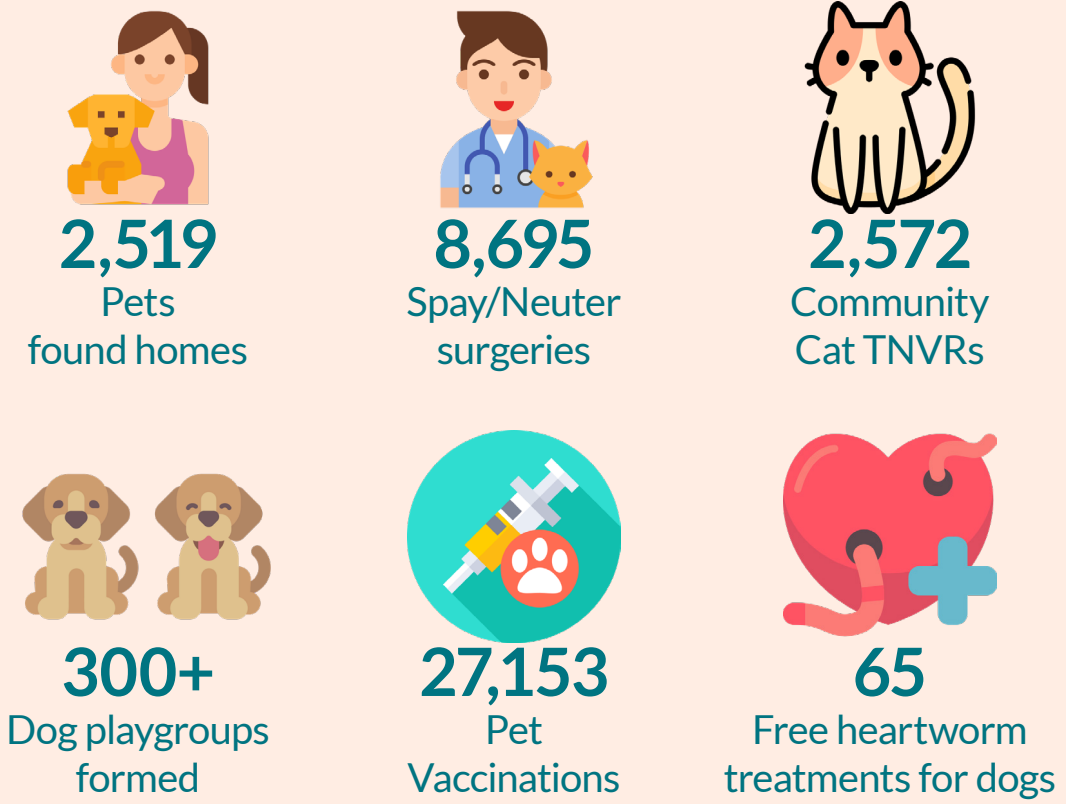
## Donate today!

Use the attached envelope or save time and a stamp by donating online:  
[www.humanesocietysav.org/make-a-donation](http://www.humanesocietysav.org/make-a-donation)

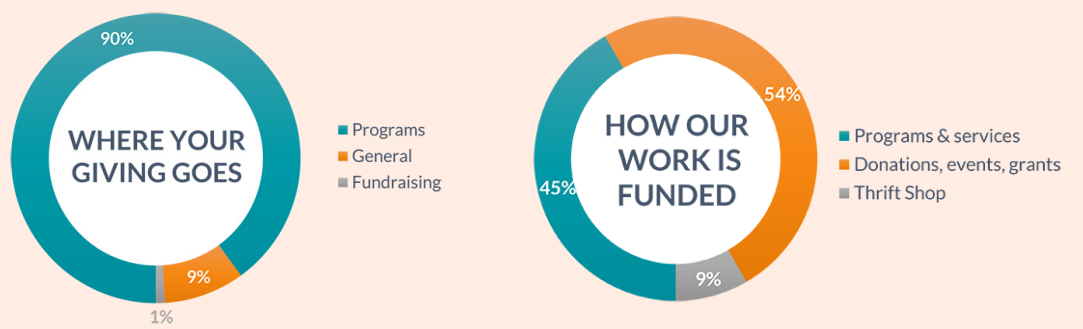


We are proud to announce the formation of the HSGS Foundation! The HSGS Foundation is a separate 501c3 organization with it's own Board of Directors that will work to ensure the future of HSGS and animal welfare in our community. If you are interested in planned giving or learning more about the Foundation please contact us at [hsgsfoundation@humanesocietysav.org](mailto:hsgsfoundation@humanesocietysav.org).

This is the impact your support has made in the last year



Our 2023 Financials



Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Savannah, GA Permit No. 33



The Humane Society for Greater Savannah is funded entirely by private donations, services, fees, and special events. We receive no funding from any government agency and no money from national animal welfare organizations like the Humane Society of the United States.

**Donations made to The Humane Society for Greater Savannah HELP OUR LOCAL PETS!**



Basma - Adopted November 2023

Bettering the Lives of Pets and People

Help Us Help Them



7215 SALLIE MOOD DRIVE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31406  
[www.humanesocietysav.org](http://www.humanesocietysav.org)