

A close-up photograph of a woman with curly brown hair and a black earring, hugging a large, brindle and white dog. The woman is wearing a dark blue tank top. The dog has its front paw raised. They are on a sandy beach under a clear blue sky.

2016  
ANNUAL REPORT



Charleston Animal Society  
Since 1874  
Leadership. Tradition. Excellence.

# 2016 – A BANNER YEAR FOR ANIMALS & FAMILIES

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Over the past few years, Charleston Animal Society, fueled by tremendous community support for its mission and direction, has experienced a renaissance for animals and their families, making our community safer and healthier for both. Thank YOU for making this possible!

This 143-year-old community institution is South Carolina's strongest voice for animals. In 2016, your generosity led to numerous worthwhile accomplishments, including:

- Faced with the challenge of 9,000 abused, abandoned, ill and injured animals needing refuge and care, Charleston Animal Society took them in – more than 90% of our community's animals!
- Lacking capacity, particularly in rural counties, animal shelters across the state looked for leadership and found it in Charleston Animal Society as it partnered with Petco Foundation to launch one of the boldest grassroots lifesaving efforts in the U.S. – No Kill South Carolina!
- As carriage horses continued to haul excessive loads of tourists in heavy congestion and extreme heat, Charleston Animal Society persisted in demanding reform and will not rest until an independent, peer-reviewed scientific study is conducted to establish true humane working conditions for these animals!
- Just as we appeared to escape another hurricane season, Hurricane Matthew rose from the sea. State Emergency

Management called on Charleston Animal Society, which launched a historic evacuation effort across 6 counties, responding to multiple animal organizations to safely evacuate nearly 600 animals!

- When Maddie's Fund, America's No Kill leader, searched for a model lifesaving organization to be its flagship educational partner in the Southeast, it partnered with Charleston Animal Society to train animal welfare professionals across the country in 2017, striving to build a No Kill Nation!
- By year's end, Charleston Animal Society sustained our No Kill Community of Charleston County for the 4th straight year by providing treatment and care to nearly 20,000 animals and education to 16,000 kids!

On behalf of Charleston Animal Society, I extend my deepest and most sincere gratitude for your support, which kept us the most honored charity in South Carolina 4 years in a row! Always remember, YOU are Charleston Animal Society.



Joe Elmore, CAWA, CFRE  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Charleston Animal Society



## AMAZING RESCUES

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Bo came to us just after Christmas; scared, hungry and the victim of neglect. He was found on Johns Island, tied to a tree, with no available food or water. Two other dogs were rescued with him and brought to Charleston Animal Society.

He was just one of 114 cruelty cases Charleston Animal Society was able to help with in 2016, thanks to your continued support. Bo and his two former playmates received the food, love and medical attention they needed at Charleston Animal Society and all were adopted into amazing new homes. Bo's former owner was charged with animal neglect.

When you share the gifts of your homes, your time and your money – it makes stories like Bo's possible. You are why Charleston County continues to be a No Kill Community. Bo thanks you from the bottom of his heart.



# LEADING THE RESCUE EFFORTS DURING HURRICANE MATTHEW

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Charleston Animal Society, already overcrowded with animals, rolled out its emergency plan for both Charleston County and other areas of the state as part of its No Kill South Carolina initiative leading up to Hurricane Matthew's impact. Working with multiple partners, the Animal Society evacuated approximately 100 animals from its sheltering system, along with others, and placed another 100 animals into foster homes. This enabled Charleston Animal Society to become nimble enough to begin helping other animal shelters following the storm.

Working closely with State Emergency Management, Charleston Animal Society's Rapid Response Team deployed staff to several hard-hit counties, some of them multiple times. They included Horry County, Chesterfield County, Marion County, Dorchester County, and Georgetown County. This evacuation of animals and deployment of staff to assist with efforts to remove them from harm's way led to 574 animals being saved, setting a historic precedent in South Carolina. Not only did the staff camp out in the shelter several nights to care for the animals, but they also provided veterinary support to Charleston County's pet evacuation shelter at Burns Elementary School.

# GIVING FROM THE HEART

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**In 2016, our average cost of care for one animal was \$369.**

Each year we ask people to give of their time (volunteering), their home (adoption/fostering) and their money (donations). Last year our supporters heard our call and made 2016 the most successful in Charleston Animal Society's history. With this collective force of hearts and minds, we were able to save more lives, spay and neuter more animals and continue an unprecedented legacy of humane caring.

Food,  
Shelter, Medical

\$204

Heartworm Test  
\$16

Microchip  
\$25

Vaccines  
\$24

Spay / Neuter  
\$100



# GROUNDBREAKING GIFTS

## **Deborah Chalsty**

Deborah's gift in 2016 allowed us to continue and expand our Deborah Chalsty Free-Roaming Cat Initiative that made the spaying or neutering of 2,916 cats possible. In addition, her donation helped Charleston Animal Society acquire Feline Freedom Coalition (see page 11).

## **Hank and Laurel Greer**

The Greers have supported animal welfare for the past two decades in the Charleston Area. Their 2016 gifts to Charleston Animal Society (made in honor of their beloved cats) allowed for improvements to our AAHA-accredited spay-neuter facility, now named the Sam Greer Spay-Neuter Clinic. Their gifts also made the 2017 rollout of our new Simon Greer Mobile Spay-Neuter Clinic possible. This mobile unit will allow us to greatly improve our outreach to underserved communities.

## **Maddie's Fund**

In an ambitious effort, Maddie's Fund launched a three-year, nationwide push to enhance the capacity for animal organizations across the country to save more lives. Recognizing Charleston Animal Society as a national leader, the organization awarded two national apprenticeship programs and an executive leader fellowship to Charleston Animal Society. Now, professionals from around the country will be coming to Charleston Animal Society to learn best-practice life-saving strategies in foster care, shelter medicine and executive management.

## **Petco Foundation**

A generous grant from the Petco Foundation was awarded to Charleston Animal Society to launch No Kill South Carolina. The program is one of the boldest grassroots animal care initiatives ever undertaken in the United States. Charleston Animal Society is building a solid infrastructure of support across the state so that no animal will be more than an hour away from lifesaving help. The Petco Foundation's investment is making the No Kill South Carolina dream a reality.

## **Vicki and Rodney Mott**

The Motts' generous support each year enables us to treat the thousands of sick and injured cats that are routinely brought into our shelter. Visitors to Charleston Animal Society's adoption area will now find the Vicki and Rodney Mott Cat Cabana which allows us to provide the necessary medical treatment to get these cats adopted.

## **Justine Nathan and the Festoon Foundation**

Continual support from Justine Nathan and the Festoon Foundation helped Charleston Animal Society cross the threshold to make Charleston a No Kill Community. Her gifts also sustained the momentous level of care that a No Kill status requires. Because of her giving, we have been able move forward with the innovative strategies that make Charleston Animal Society a beacon of animal care in the United States.

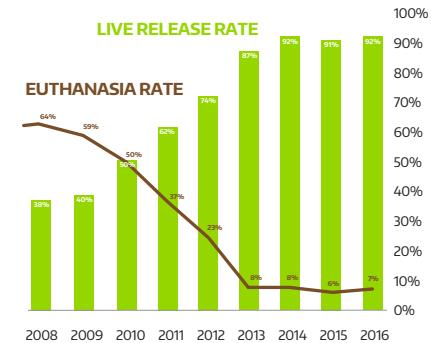
# THE PLAN IS WORKING

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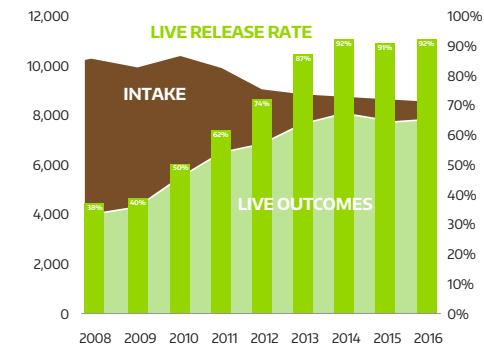
The research-based, data-driven strategies we employ continue to save more lives than ever before. Innovative programs including Pets for Life and our Animal Resource Center are keeping more animals out of the shelter and with their families, keeping Charleston County a No Kill Community.



Live Release Rate and Euthanasia Rate



Live Release Rate, Live Outcomes and Intake (Entire Year)





# FINANCIALS

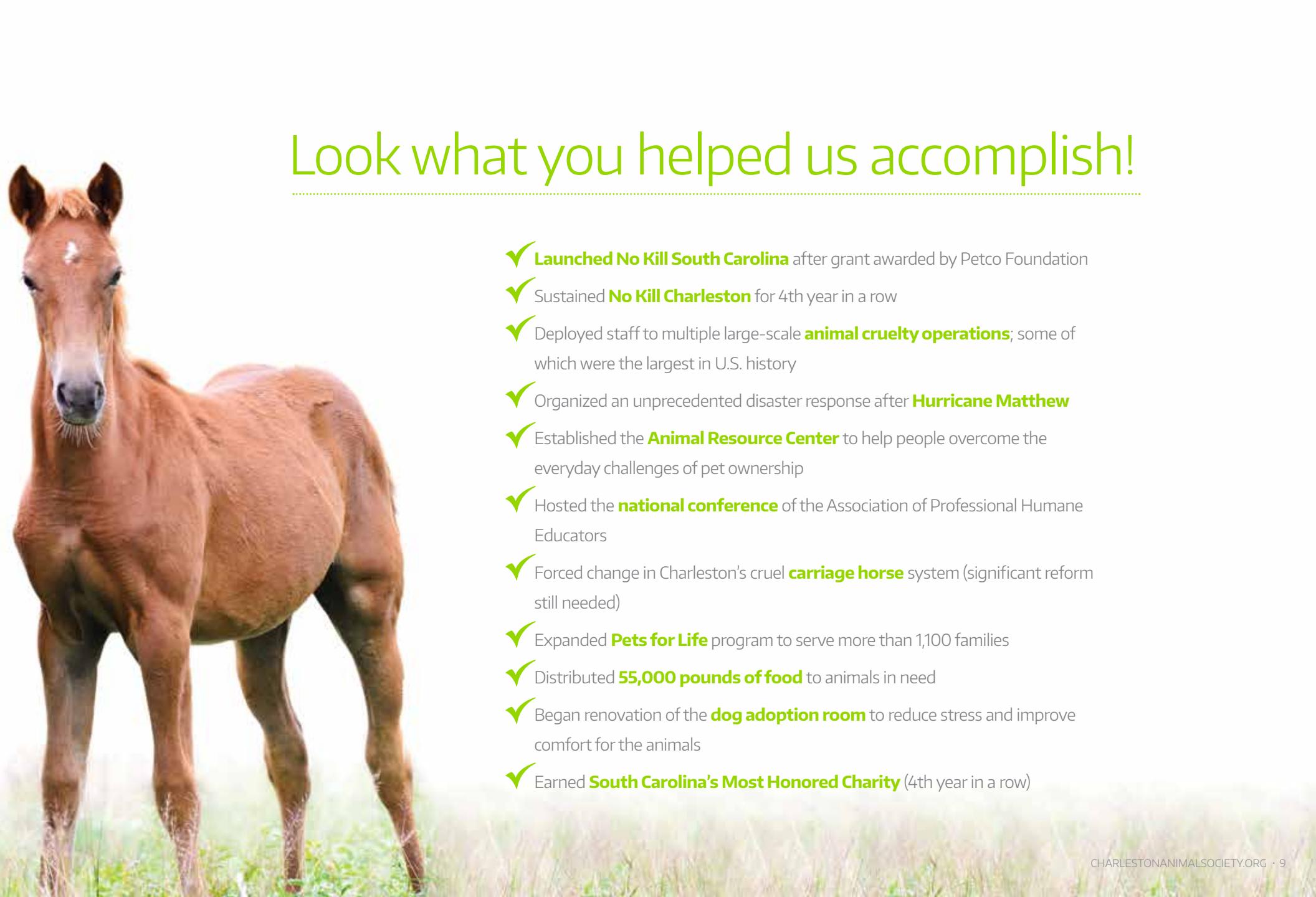


Total Revenue  
**\$7,488,891**



Total Expenses  
**\$7,014,832**





# Look what you helped us accomplish!

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- ✓ Launched **No Kill South Carolina** after grant awarded by Petco Foundation
- ✓ Sustained **No Kill Charleston** for 4th year in a row
- ✓ Deployed staff to multiple large-scale **animal cruelty operations**; some of which were the largest in U.S. history
- ✓ Organized an unprecedented disaster response after **Hurricane Matthew**
- ✓ Established the **Animal Resource Center** to help people overcome the everyday challenges of pet ownership
- ✓ Hosted the **national conference** of the Association of Professional Humane Educators
- ✓ Forced change in Charleston's cruel **carriage horse** system (significant reform still needed)
- ✓ Expanded **Pets for Life** program to serve more than 1,100 families
- ✓ Distributed **55,000 pounds of food** to animals in need
- ✓ Began renovation of the **dog adoption room** to reduce stress and improve comfort for the animals
- ✓ Earned **South Carolina's Most Honored Charity** (4th year in a row)



PHOTO: JEANNE TAYLOR

## FELINE FREEDOM SANCTUARY

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In 2016, Charleston Animal Society took over the operations of the Feline Freedom Sanctuary – a quiet 20-acre compound located 20 miles south of Charleston in Ravenel, SC. It's a place where cats can live peacefully in seven indoor habitats or wander together in colonies outdoors. Diane Straney ran it for more than a decade after the sanctuary was started in 2004.

A gift from Deborah Chalsty and a grant from Greater Good helped with significant outdoor habitat expansion including repairs to the sanctuary's roads and upgrading of the indoor habitat's heating and air conditioning systems. More than 200 cats who are feral, or in some cases too sick to be adopted, currently call Feline Freedom Sanctuary their home – a place where they will live out the rest of their lives in peace and comfort.



## CHILI COOK-OFF & OYSTER ROAST

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Attendance at the 2016 Celebrity Chili Cook-off & Oyster Roast smashed all records. Almost 9,000 participants supported or attended the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off at North Charleston Riverfront Park. 7,000 people came through the gates to enjoy the day. Proceeds benefited our medical fund that treats nearly 20,000 abused and neglected animals every year. The Charleston Animal Society Chili Cook-off and Oyster Roast is the largest nonprofit animal welfare event in South Carolina.





# CHARLESTON FIREFIGHTER CALENDAR

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Just like the dedicated members of the Greater Charleston Fire Departments, the most important thing we do at Charleston Animal Society is save lives. We are honored to partner with them. Our lifesaving calendar showcases rescuers with the rescued – it's a perfect fit. All proceeds benefit Toby's Fund to save abused, neglected, and abandoned animals in our community. The Firefighter Debut Party has been voted Best Party in Charleston two years in a row!

## JUSTICE FOR CAITLYN

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In 2016, justice was served for Caitlyn, who had her muzzle taped shut in North Charleston the year before. The man who nearly killed Caitlyn pleaded guilty to felony animal cruelty and will never have the chance to hurt her again.

Her "A-Team" was by Caitlyn's side every step of the way. Those pictured include (L-R): Charleston Animal Society Senior Director of Veterinary Care Dr. Elizabeth Fuller, Charleston Animal Society Director of Anti-Cruelty & Outreach Aldwin Roman, North Charleston Police Detective Thomas Bilancione and Charleston Animal Society Director of Community Engagement Kay Hyman.

Thousands of others helped Caitlyn along the way including the 9th Circuit Solicitor's Office, Veterinary Specialty Care and many of you who donated to Caitlyn's Anti-Cruelty Fund or sent messages of encouragement that brought the smile back to Caitlyn's beautiful face once again.





PHOTO: JONATHAN BONCEK

South Carolina's Most  
Honored Charity

