



**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

# LETTER *from the* CHAIR



Christel Slaughter, PhD

**2019 was a great year!** In many ways, it was the best yet. Companion Animal Alliance raised the overall save rate to a record 77%, up five points from 2018. You may remember that the save rate was only 20% when CAA took over the shelter in 2010. We have certainly come a long way, almost reversing the original numbers.

How did we accomplish a higher save rate? Well, while the numbers improved across the board, let's first look at our higher save rate for cats. Our beautiful new facility, new leaders, and our friendly and knowledgeable staff created a welcoming atmosphere that actually brought a record number of cats into our shelter. And despite the high intake, we can thank our dedicated feline volunteers and fosters for helping us save more lives and find more adoption homes than ever - so much so that we had space to care for 36 cats from a nearby parish in need. It truly takes a village and CAA has a good one.

Our save rate for dogs was also positively influenced by our shelter's expansion in 2019 which included the

fourth adoption room, paid for by a generous donor. The additional kennels, which use soothing colors from the Fear Free palette, can house up to 40 dogs and are quiet and easy to clean. The reduced stress environment means that our dogs are healthier and more adoptable.

While CAA continues to improve the spaces where our pets live, we are also working to provide greater emotional support for the animals in our charge, making them better pets for the families that ultimately adopt them. Some of these innovative activities include exposing our pets to a variety of tastes, smells and sounds, and new, creative ways to keep our furry friends engaged. We now offer our canines frozen peanut butter, soothing music, calming scents, and as much human interaction as possible. Research shows that happier pets stay healthier and are thus more adoptable.

CAA's agreement with East Baton Rouge Parish includes caring for animals in our evacuation shelter during certain emergencies. In 2019, we were able to

complete a test run with Hurricane Barry, which fortunately did not live up to its predictions of potential danger. In the week before the storm, however, we met with City Parish officials to review details of our disaster plan, mobilize fosters and adopters, and ensure that CAA employees were at our facility around-the-clock to manage any unexpected emergencies or influx of animals. Fulfilling a request of Animal Control, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry dispatched its mobile 50-pet shelter to the F.G. Clark Activity Center at Southern University, where human evacuees would be housed, enabling families to stay near their pets. CAA staff manned that unit as well in order to care for any animals needing assistance.

As always, we couldn't do what we do without the support our community provides. Our volunteers, fosters, donors, staff and all of you who believe in our mission make it possible for CAA to achieve this success. We thank you, one and all and look forward to making even more progress in 2020.

*Wendell Hayes*



# SMELLS, TASTES AND SOUNDS

After a full year in the new shelter with a focus on the physical health of our pets, CAA saw a need to incorporate activities that impacted their emotional well-being. The **Pet Enrichment Program** launched in October 2019 with a goal of enhancing our shelter pets' stay by offering them a variety of tastes, smells and sounds in addition to daily physical activity.

The community instantly showed their love for this initiative. Pounds of peanut butter and pumpkin puree were donated to stuff Kong toys. Music players arrived for every kennel to hear, synced up to a scheduled playlist of storytime and light jazz. Childrens' books were dropped off in droves and groups all over Baton Rouge called about reading to our pets.

Research proves that offering the pets a daily enrichment activity decreases the pets' anxiety and ultimately makes them more adoptable. If you'd like to help by providing treats, toys or other enrichment items, go to our Amazon Wishlist on the Donate page of CAABR.org to see what our pets like best. Or you can donate dollars knowing your contribution will be put to good use making our pets healthier and happier.



# SECOND CHANCES

CAA has offered second chances for nearly ten years, sometimes even giving third and fourth chances for Baton Rouge's lost and abandoned pets. Now, CAA helps give second chances to former state prisoners through a new partnership with the Louisiana Parole Project. The majority of CAA's newest Animal Caretakers gained parole eligibility after a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision found that mandatory life sentences for juveniles were unconstitutional, and Louisiana's 2017 Justice Reinvestment reforms.

As full time Animal Caretakers, their daily duties include cleaning pet kennels, feeding, interacting with and monitoring CAA's pets. The seven current Parole Project employees are all lovers of animals, with one even being previously known as the Angola Cat Whisperer. By bicycle, car or public transit, these Caretakers arrive to work with unmatched enthusiasm and leave with a great sense of satisfaction.

CAA hopes to grow this partnership by hiring additional Parole Project employees. The benefits to the men and to the animals are real. If you are interested in supporting the effort, contact [ejackson@caabr.org](mailto:ejackson@caabr.org).





# A RECORD SETTING YEAR

Between the increase in adoptions and lost pets returned to their families and the uptake in fosters and volunteers, CAA had a truly record setting year. We were able to focus on the fundamentals of our organization and updated policies and procedures throughout all departments, including enhanced intake and medical protocols, heightened employee support, and additional available trainings. In addition, CAA focused outward to build relationships and partnerships throughout our community. We partnered with local schools and universities, area nonprofits, and animal welfare organizations to increase our mission of serving the people and pets of our parish.

## 2019 SHELTER STATISTICS

Total intake dogs and cats	7,661
Total intake other animals	124
Adoptions (all species)	3,036
Rescue transfers (all species)	1,002
Cat trap, neuter, and release	2,262
Dog and cat spay/neuter	3,911
Pets returned	
to owners (all species)	631
New volunteers and fosters	817
Pets for Life pets met	515
Pets for Life surgeries	219

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Companion Animal Alliance** was formed as a nonprofit in 2010 to take over management of the East Baton Rouge Parish animal shelter. Our mission is to save more lost and abandoned pets, lower the number of animals entering the shelter, provide humane care for the animals that are with us, find forever homes for animals, and return lost pets to their families.

## Board of Directors

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*Community Advocate*

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*General Counsel, Commercial Properties Realty Trust*

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*Community Advocate*



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## ALL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GIFTS OVER \$10,000

*Past and Current*

**\$3,000,000** Baton Rouge Area Foundation

**\$2,000,000 - \$2,999,999** Carole and Charlie Lamar

**\$1,000,000 - 1,999,999** Lisa and Tom Adamek; Louisiana State University

**\$500,000 - \$999,999** Antunovich Associates; Lemoine Construction

**\$250,000 - \$499,999** Marty and John Engquist; Vera Olds; Irene W. & C.B. Pennington Foundation; Commercial Properties; Dee Dee Reilly

**\$100,000 - \$249,999** Marianna Barber in memory of Buck Barber; Cathy, Holly and Camille Coates in honor of their parents; The Frost Foundation in honor of Mary Jane Howell; Rick Hartley; Drs. Kirk and Judith Patrick; PetSmart Charities Inc. Surgery Center Grant; Nadine Carter Russell; Betsy and Newton Thomas; Turner Family Foundation; David Vey

**\$10,000 - \$99,999** Kimberly and Leo Abel; Pamela and Tom Babcock; Annette D. Barton; Louise and Mike Bruce; Teri and Gerald Fontenot; Merice "Boo" Johnston Grigsby Foundation; Cathy Coates and Brian Hales; Alvin E. Kimble; Mary Belle Kirtland; Teri and Gordon LeBlanc; Susan and Richard Lipsey; David C. Manship; Douglas L. Manship Jr.; Richard F. Manship; Sherri and Matt McKay; Amanda Ranck and Matt Melton; Carolyn and Henson Moore; Kathy and Lawrence M. Morello; Virginia and John Noland; Dina Manship Planche; Sharon and Gary Poirrier; Jennifer and Sean Reilly; Winifred and Kevin Reilly Jr.; Erin and Claude F. Reynaud Jr.; Chuck and Jerry Schwing Family Fund; Christel C. and William S. Slaughter; Stantec; Mary Ann Sternberg

# ANNUAL FUND

## 2019 GENERAL FUND GIFTS OVER \$1,000

*Donors over \$60 can be seen by year on our website—[caabr.org](http://caabr.org).*

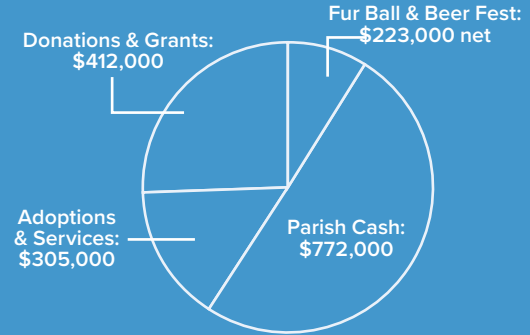
**\$10,000 - \$99,999** Lisa and Tom Adamek; Beverly Coates; Teri and Gordon LeBlanc; Cathy Coates and Brian Hales; Kristina and John Miremont

**\$5,000 - \$9,999** Joseph Antunovich; Charles Lamar Family Foundation; Vera Olds; Leah VanLangevelde; Candace E. Wright

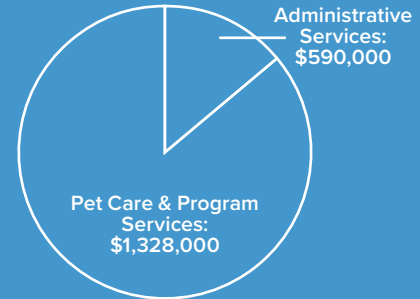
**\$1,000 - \$4,999** Claudia Adley; John W. Barton Family Foundation; Burt Family Foundation; Champion Technology Services, Inc; Camille F. Coates; Margaret H. Coates; Cathy and Jay Dardenne; Enterprise Holdings Foundation; Mark Anthony Brands Inc; McMains Family Fund; Virginia and John Noland; Mr. and Mrs. Dan J. O'Leary; Winifred and Kevin P. Reilly Jr; Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Reulet; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin G. Rotenberg; Nadine Carter Russell; Alma Lee, Norman and Cary Saurage Fund; Christel C. and William S. Slaughter; Thomas Turner; Leslie Tuttle



## 2019 OPERATING INCOME



## 2019 OPERATING EXPENSES



# 2019 HONORARIUMS

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# 2019 MEMORIALS

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*Kelli Myers*  
*Mr. and Mrs. James Randall II*

Slim Rhodes  
*Shelley Milam*

Artemis and Cayenne Rood  
*Shelley Tibbs*

Sherman  
*Paul and Jill Friloux*

Darleen Smith  
*Pacience Smith*

Tasso, Teeboy, and Daisy  
*Mark Rayner*

Lollie Wilkins  
*Adrienne Groh*

Rufus Yerger  
*Barbara F. Benton*



Held every spring, the eighth annual Fur Ball was attended by more than 800 humans and more than 100 dogs. Over \$180,000 was raised to benefit Companion Animal Alliance.

#### FUR BALL 2019 SPONSORS

Absolut; Abstract Productions; Albemarle Foundation; Ann Connelly Fine Art; Annuity Marketing Services; August Events; Balfour Emonet; Baton Rouge Printing; Bergeron's City Market; Breazeale Sachse and Wilson LLP; Cajun Ready Mix Concrete; Camp Bow Wow; Cathy Coates and Brian Hales; Celtic Studios; Dragon Ice Sculptures; Event Rentals; The Ehrhardt Group; Ghery; Guarantee Restoration Services; inRegister; Jeannie Frey Rhodes; John Turner and Jerry Fischer; Jones Walker; Kathleen Mocklin and Kyle Crane; The Dunne Family; Kristina and John Miremont; Lamar Advertising; Lee Michaels; Mansurs on the Boulevard; The Thompson Woosley Cattellino Group at Morgan Stanley; Petz Plaza; Purina; Southern Lifestyle Development; Tin Roof; Truly Haute; Turner Industries; Vera Olds; Workplace Resource; WRKF 89.3







The 2019 Fur Ball Court, with King Larry and owner Prescott Bailey and Queen Ginger and owner Leslie Berg



Held every fall, the fifth annual Cap City Beer Fest was held in downtown Baton Rouge and raised over \$25,000.

#### CAP CITY BEER FEST 2019 SPONSORS

Animal Health Clinic; Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge; The Backpacker; Camp Bow Wow; Cathy Coates and Brian Hales; Coca-Cola; DIG; The Dunne Family; Guarantee Restoration; Kleinpeter Veterinary Hospital; Petz Plaza; Stantec; State Farm Steven Brooksher Jr.; Subaru of Baton Rouge; Tin Roof; Top Golf; WRKF; 102.5 WFMM







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