# A Safety Net for Juneau's Pets

## Juneau Animal Rescue

## Annual Report

## 2025

## Board of Directors

*Serving during the 2025 calendar year*

Jodi Neil, President
Shannon Adamson, Vice President
Karen Carey, Secretary
Meredith Trainor, Treasurer
Kaylin Anderson
Liz Dodd
NaMee Erickson
Mandy Keogh
Mike LeVine
Mari Meiners
Kevin Ritchie
Jeanette St. George

## Executive Director

Rick Driscoll

## Administrative Staff

Andy Nelson, Deputy Director
Lilith Wolland, Administrative Coordinator

## Shelter Staff

*Serving during the 2025 calendar year*

Peter Sowell, Animal Care Manager
Brianna Caldwell, Kennel Tech
Shawn Denbow, Doggy Day Care
Jarah Huffman, Kennel Tech
Brent Kimzey, Kennel Tech
Persephone Kimzey, Customer Service
Dakota Nonakis, Kennel Tech
Isabella Partridge, Kennel Tech
Monica Puustinen, Kennel Tech
Dora Rinella, Kennel Tech
Angelina Sorrell, Customer Service/ Volunteer Coordinator
Jerry Taton, Maintenance Tech
Miles Thurman, Kennel Tech
Ruby Hope, Kennel Tech

## Veterinary Clinic Staff

*Serving during the 2025 calendar year*

Dr. Alicia Harris, Clinic Director
Jocelyn Andrea, LVT, Assistant Director
Dr. Lisa Kramer, Relief Veterinarian
Evan Mauk, Clinic Assistant
Dr. Tracy Ward, Relief Veterinarian

## Animal Control Staff

*Serving during the 2025 calendar year*

Jordan Bales, Animal Control Director
Jacob Miller, Animal Control Officer
Mike Mazouch, Former Animal Control Director
Binta Wold, Animal Control Officer
Thom Young-Bayer, Animal Control Officer

## Executive Director's Message

### More Than a Shelter

Before I'd worked my first day at JAR, I joined the organization's annual whale watching fundraiser and met many of you for the very first time. I was a little nervous, but mostly excited. Looking back, for me that evening wasn't about the whales. It was about the people.

I met supporters who joyfully shared stories about the animals they had adopted from JAR. I met volunteers and foster families who gave so generously of their time. I met staff and board members whose passion for this organization was immediately obvious. Before I had even stepped through the front door, I realized JAR was so much more than a shelter. It's a community united by compassion and the belief that every animal deserves a safety net—a place to be sheltered and cared for while waiting to begin life in a new loving home.

That feeling has never left me. What *has* changed is my appreciation for everything that animal welfare involves. Before coming to JAR, animals had always been part of my life. But I quickly discovered that loving animals and understanding the profession of animal welfare are two very different things. Animal welfare entails so much more than caring for animals. It's veterinary medicine, animal behavior, law enforcement, public policy, shelter operations, fundraising, community outreach, and above all, people working together with compassion. It's challenging, deeply rewarding, and there's always something new to learn.

Our veterinarians and clinic team have taught me the power of accessible veterinary care. Our Animal Control Officers have shown me the balance between enforcing the law while leading with empathy for animals and their humans. Our kennel staff have deepened my understanding of animal behavior, enrichment, and the patience it takes to help frightened animals learn to trust again. Our volunteers and foster families remind me every day that ordinary people can make an extraordinary difference.

I've also learned from shelter leaders across Alaska and around the country, from our Board of Directors, our community partners, and from many of you who have shared ideas, encouragement, questions, and yes, sometimes criticism. Every conversation has made me a better leader.

Together, in 2025, we strengthened programs, expanded services, improved operations, invested in our staff, and built stronger partnerships. Much of that work has happened quietly behind the scenes, but it has made JAR stronger, more resilient, and better prepared for the future.

We've also begun laying the groundwork for the next chapter of our organization: a new shelter that will fortify and expand our safety net. We're thinking not just about today's needs, but about what Juneau Animal Rescue should look like 20, 30, and even 50 years from now.

JAR has always been more than a shelter. The best is still ahead.

Rick Driscoll

Rick Driscoll, Executive Director

# Our Mission

**To serve our community by promoting animal welfare and strengthening the animal-human bond.**

**To improve the lives of pets through education and protection.**

**To shelter stray, abandoned, and surrendered pets and find them loving homes.**

# Veterinary Clinic Services

## Compassionate Care for Animals and the Community

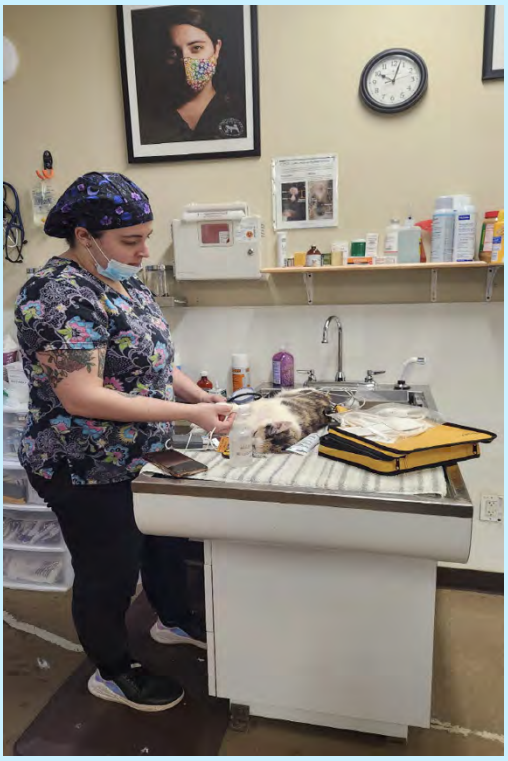
2025 marked an exc iting new chapter for Juneau Animal Rescue's Veterinary Clinic as Dr. Alicia Harris completed her first year as Clinic Director. Bringing experience in shelter medicine, public health, and animal control, Dr. Harris has continued to strengthen the clinic's role in supporting both shelter animals and the pets of Juneau residents.

Throughout the year, our veterinary team performed **542 spay and neuter surgeries**, including **310 procedures for JAR animals** and **232 surgeries for community-owned pets**. More than **100 of those surgeries** were provided at reduced cost through our Low-Income Qualifying (LIQ) program, helping ensure that financial hardship is not a barrier to responsible pet ownership. By preventing unwanted litters and improving long-term animal health, these services continue to have a lasting impact on our community.

In addition to routine surgical care, the clinic provided medical treatment for animals with complex needs, including emergency injuries, dental procedures, and corrective surgeries for shelter animals requiring specialized care before they could be adopted.

As the year progressed, Dr. Harris focused on strengthening the clinic's programs while exploring opportunities to expand access to affordable veterinary care. The clinic continues to provide vaccinations, microchipping, health certificates, and preventive care that help keep pets healthy and in their homes.

The Veterinary Clinic remains an essential part of JAR's mission, caring for every shelter animal that enters our doors while supporting responsible pet ownership throughout Juneau. We are grateful to our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners whose continued support makes this work possible. Together, we are improving the lives of animals and the people who love them.



***In 2025, JAR's veterinary clinic performed more than 100 surgeries at reduced cost through our Low-Income Qualifying (LIQ) program, helping to ensure that financial hardship is not a barrier to responsible pet ownership.***

**JAR relies solely on public donations to the Second Chance Fund to cover the costs of medical needs beyond vaccines and spay and neuter services for our animals.** our

# Kennel Activity

Every successful adoption begins long before an animal meets its new family. It begins in the kennel, where frightened animals receive medical care, enrichment, patience, and the opportunity to learn to trust again.

The Kennel Department experienced an exciting year of growth and progress in 2025, highlighted by new leadership and continued improvements in the care we provide to animals awaiting their forever homes.

One of the year's biggest milestones was the creation of the new Animal Care Manager position. Peter Sowell became the first employee to serve in this role, bringing exceptional leadership, creativity, and dedication to the department. His innovative use of social media has increased community engagement and helped more adoptable animals connect with loving families, while fostering a positive team culture focused on providing outstanding care for every animal that enters our shelter.

The dedication of our kennel team was especially evident this year when 44 cats and kittens arrived at JAR over the course of several days, placing extraordinary demands on shelter space and daily operations. Every animal required clean housing, nutritious meals, enrichment, behavioral observation, and individualized daily care while recovering from the stress of relocation. Working alongside our incredible foster families, who opened their homes to vulnerable kittens and helped relieve overcrowding at the shelter, the kennel staff ensured each animal received the comfort, care, and attention needed to begin the journey toward a healthy, permanent home.

Thanks to another generous ASPCA Quality of Life Grant, we continued making meaningful improvements to our shelter. The grant funded eight expanded cat kennels, more than doubling the living space available to many of our feline residents while providing greater comfort and enrichment during their stay. We also replaced the visual barriers throughout our dog kennel area with durable, easy-to-sanitize materials that reduce stress by limiting overstimulation between neighboring dogs, creating a calmer and healthier environment.

Every improvement we make, from larger cat kennels to quieter dog housing, from staff development to enrichment, is designed with one goal in mind: giving every animal the best possible chance at a successful adoption. We look forward to building on these successes as we continue providing compassionate care and helping more pets find the loving homes they deserve.

# JAR's Online Services

- **License a dog**
- **Renew a dog license**
- **Access and upload proof of rabies vaccine**
- **Upload proof of spay or neuter**
- **Report your pet as lost, no longer yours, or deceased.**

# Animal Control & Protection

## A Year of Transition, Protection, and Progress

2025 was a year of significant transition for Juneau Animal Rescue's Animal Control & Protection program. Following the retirement of longtime Director Karen Wood and the departure of her successor, Mike Mazouch, I was honored to assume the role of Director.

The department also experienced staffing changes with the departure of Officer Diana Moon. During this period, Officer Thom Young-Bayer and I provided around-the-clock coverage for the community until Officer Jacob Miller returned to Animal Control and Officer Binta Wold joined the team. Their additions restored the department to full staffing and positioned us well for the future.

Officer Young-Bayer's professionalism and dedication during this challenging transition earned him the **National Animal Care & Control Association's Rookie of the Year Award**, a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding service.

Our officers remained busy throughout the year. We responded to **5,548** calls requiring action**,** and our case volume more than doubled, from **1,082 cases in 2024 to 2,320 cases in 2025**. In each case we encountered an animal or family in need, whether responding to a lost pet, investigating a cruelty complaint, assisting an injured animal, conducting a bite investigation, or helping a pet owner through difficult circumstances.

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Animal Control is often viewed primarily as an enforcement agency, but we lead with empathy and much of our work focuses on education, problem-solving, and prevention. Officers work with pet owners to improve animal welfare, connect families with resources, reunite lost pets, coordinate veterinary care, and resolve issues before enforcement becomes necessary.

One of the year's most significant cases involved the voluntary surrender of **44 animals** after an owner requested assistance due to deteriorating living conditions. Several animals required extensive veterinary treatment. Rather than relying solely on enforcement, officers worked with the owner to reduce the number of animals, improve living conditions, and develop a plan to prevent future neglect. This collaborative approach reflects our commitment to creating lasting solutions whenever possible.

Animal Control also continued supporting individuals and families experiencing crisis. Working closely with the Juneau Police Department, AWARE, veterinary clinics, and other community partners, officers regularly provided temporary safekeeping for pets whose owners were hospitalized, arrested, displaced, or escaping domestic violence. These partnerships help ensure that no one has to choose between their personal safety and the safety of a beloved pet.

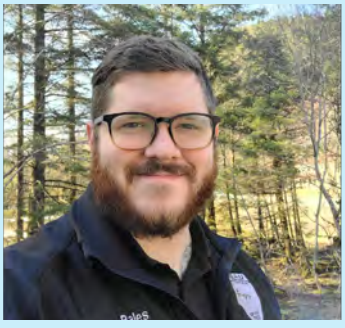
Throughout the year, we continued strengthening our operations by updating policies, improving case management and evidence documentation, enhancing officer training, and transitioning to new technology systems. We also continued work with the City and Borough of Juneau on proposed updates to local animal ordinances to improve clarity, consistency, and animal welfare.

Community education remained a cornerstone of our mission. Officers participated in vaccination clinics, National Night Out, Subaru's Share the Love event, senior center visits, school programs, and other outreach activities. Through these events, we promoted responsible pet ownership, dog bite prevention, animal behavior education, and public awareness of Animal Control's role in the community.

As we look ahead, our priorities include completing technology upgrades, strengthening officer training, modernizing department procedures, expanding community outreach, and advancing ordinance revisions. These efforts will improve services for both residents and animals while preparing the department for future challenges.

I am incredibly proud of the professionalism, compassion, and resilience demonstrated by our Animal Control team during this year of change. I also want to thank the Juneau Animal Rescue staff, the City and Borough of Juneau, the Juneau Police Department, local veterinarians, community organizations, volunteers, and the residents of Juneau for their continued partnership and support.

Every call we receive represents an opportunity to protect an animal, assist a family, educate an owner, improve public safety, or prevent future harm. That mission continues to guide everything we do.



Jordan Bales, Director
Animal Control and Protection

**Under our contract with the City and Borough of Juneau, JAR's Animal Control Officers provide animal control and protection services for all animals that come within the legal authority of the Borough, ensuring that impounded and rescued animals are sheltered, medically treated, fed, and nurtured physically and emotionally while awaiting return to their owners or placement in new loving homes.**

# 2025 Volunteer of the Year

# Tara Thornton

***Volunteers are the heart of Juneau Animal Rescue. Whether fostering orphaned kittens, walking dogs, comforting frightened animals, or helping behind the scenes, their generosity makes it possible for JAR to provide exceptional care while preparing animals for their forever homes.***

**We are proud to recognize Tara Thornton as our 2025 Volunteer of the Year.**

Tara first partnered with JAR in early 2025 after a litter of kittens was abandoned in the cold in downtown Juneau. Working alongside concerned community members, she helped rescue every kitten, ensuring they received veterinary care, were spayed or neutered, and ultimately found loving homes.

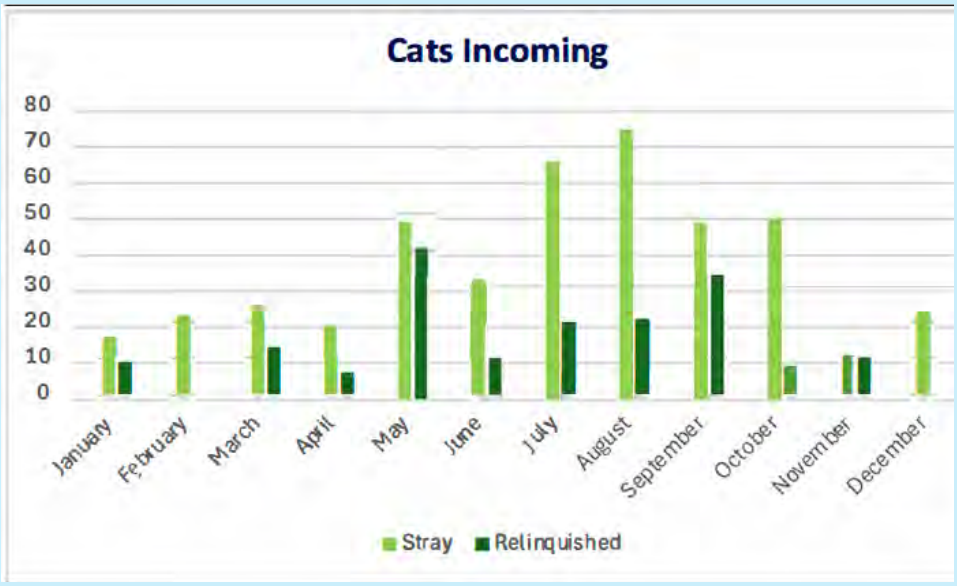
As we got to know Tara, it quickly became clear that she was an extraordinary resource. Drawing on years of fostering experience, she welcomed some of our most challenging semi-feral kittens into her home, patiently socializing them with remarkable dedication, compassion, and more than a few lickable cat treats. Her willingness to take on these difficult cases gave countless kittens the opportunity to become loving family pets.

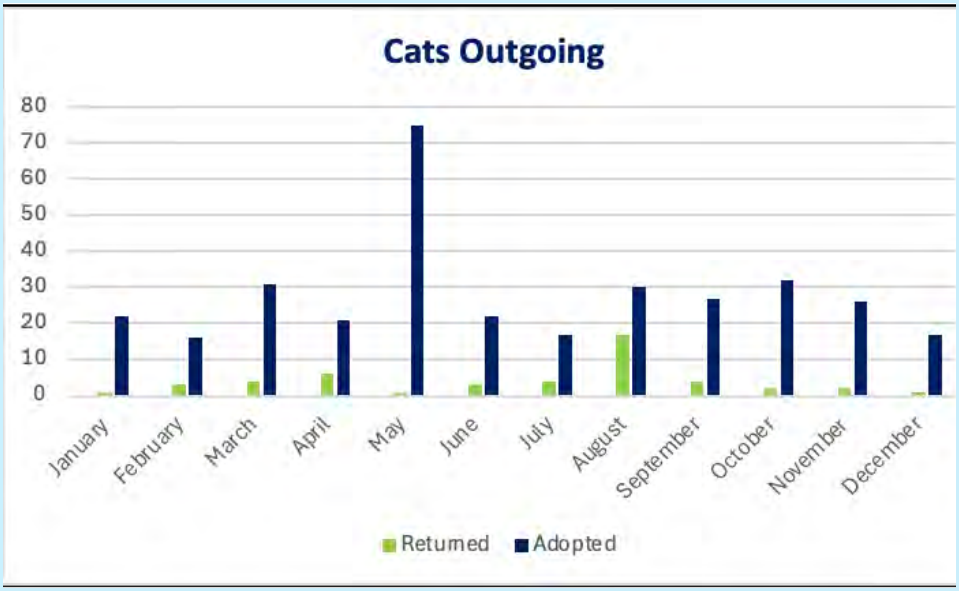
Tara's impact extended far beyond the animals in her care. She became a trusted mentor for new foster families, sharing advice, encouragement, and practical support during some of the most challenging moments of kitten season. Through social media, she highlighted the rewards of fostering, inspired others to get involved, and became a passionate advocate for Juneau Animal Rescue and our mission.

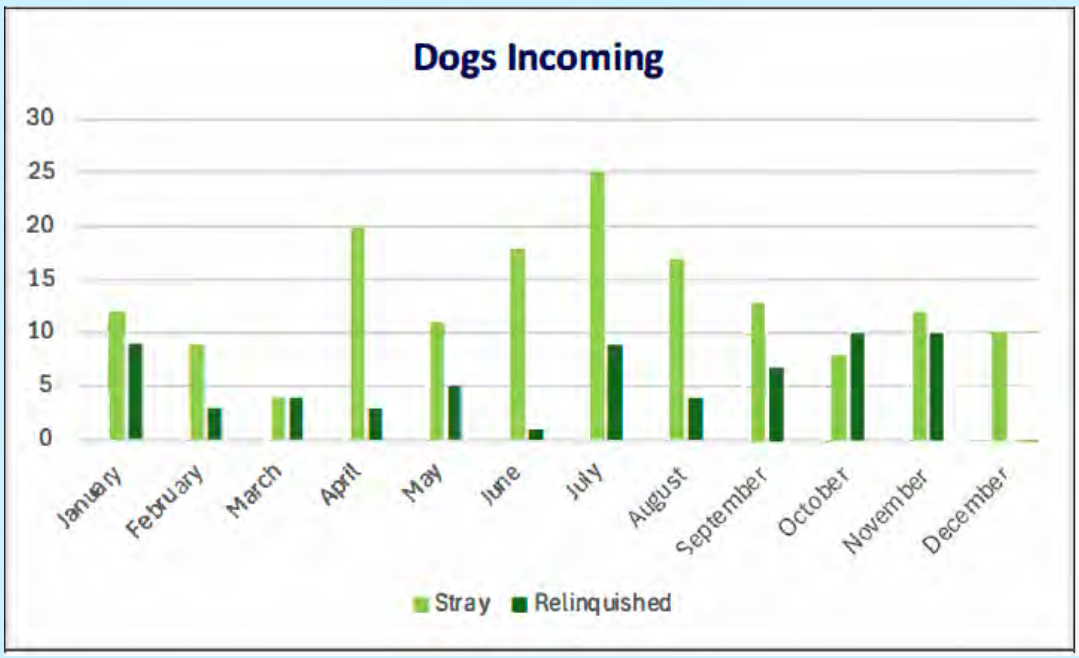
Together with her husband, Tara even renovated part of their home into a dedicated foster space for kittens. When an unexpected flood destroyed much of their hard work, they persevered, rebuilt, and soon welcomed foster kittens back into their home—a testament to their unwavering commitment to animals in need.

Tara embodies the very best of volunteerism. Her compassion, generosity, and willingness to help wherever she is needed have saved countless lives and inspired others to do the same. We are deeply grateful for everything Tara and her family have done for Juneau Animal Rescue and the homeless animals of our community.

# 2025 Shelter Statistics




Dogs Incoming
30
25
20
15
10
5
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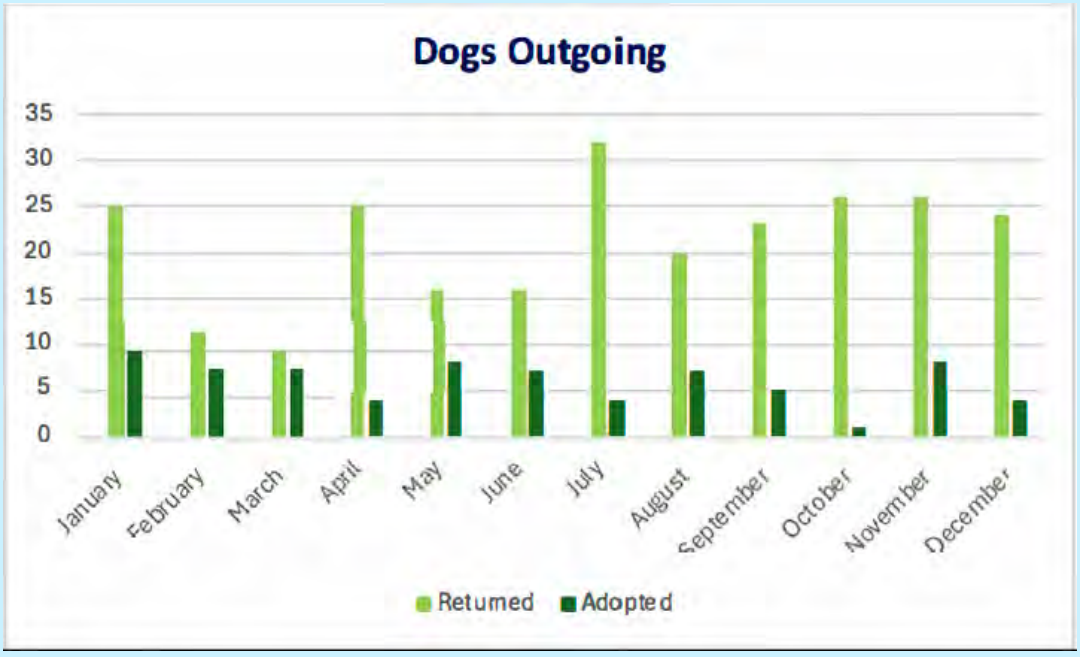
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
Stray
Relinquished


Dogs Outgoing
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
Returned
Adopted

# More than a shelter, JAR offers...

Vaccinations

Microchipping

Spaying & Neutering

Licensing

Animal Control & Protection

A Self-Groom Room

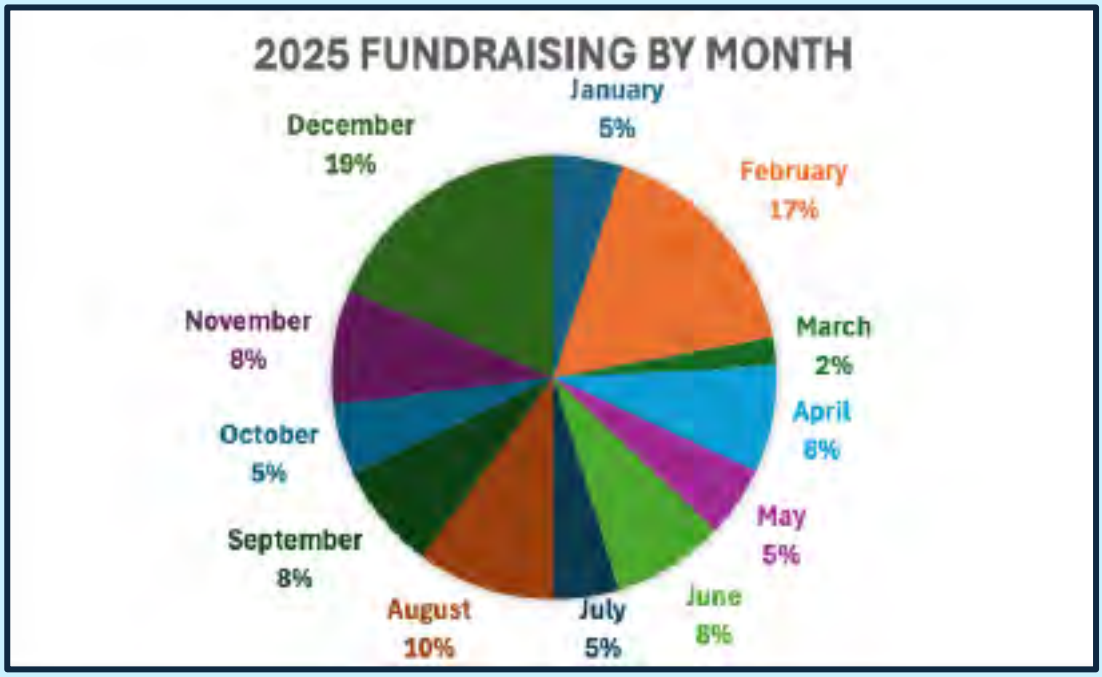
Pet Training

Pet Parenting Education

Doggy Day Care

Seniors for Seniors

# 2025 Fundraising



# Ways to Donate

**Monthly**

*Make a monthly donation.*

**Legacy**

*Make an estate gift to Juneau Animal Rescue and make a long-lasting contribution to the welfare of many animals cared for at our shelter.*

**Wish List**

*Donate frequently needed items on our wish list.*

**Shop to Donate**

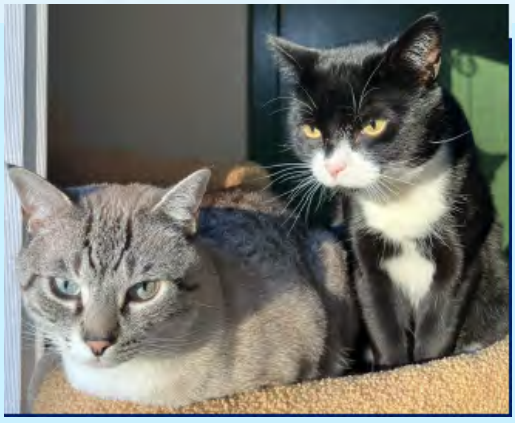
*Choose Juneau Animal Rescue as your charity of choice when you shop.*

**Donation in Memory Of**

*If you have a friend or relative who has recently suffered the loss of a beloved pet, or you yourself have, a donation made in the pet's name is a wonderful and meaningful memorial.*
*In order to make a donation in memory of a pet or a person, please call us directly at 907-789-0260.*

**Donation In Honor Of**

*A donation made In Honor of someone is a wonderful way to celebrate their birthday, or any special day! In order to make a donation in honor of a person, please call us directly at 907-789-0260.*



# Special Funds

## Spay & Neuter Fund

Donations made to the Spay & Neuter Fund are used to provide spay and neuter assistance to individuals who cannot afford this surgery for their pet, and/or to offset the cost of our in-house spay & neuter program for the animals we adopt out.

## Greatest Need Fund

Donations to this fund go to support whatever the greatest need is at the time of the donation. That may be food, veterinary care, or even new beds. Greatest need refers to what is most needed by the animals we care for, right now.

## 2nd Chance Fund

Assists animals who need special care in order to live their lives in the healthiest and happiest way possible. JAR relies solely on donations to the Second Chance Fund to cover the costs of medical needs beyond vaccines and spay and neuter services for our animals.

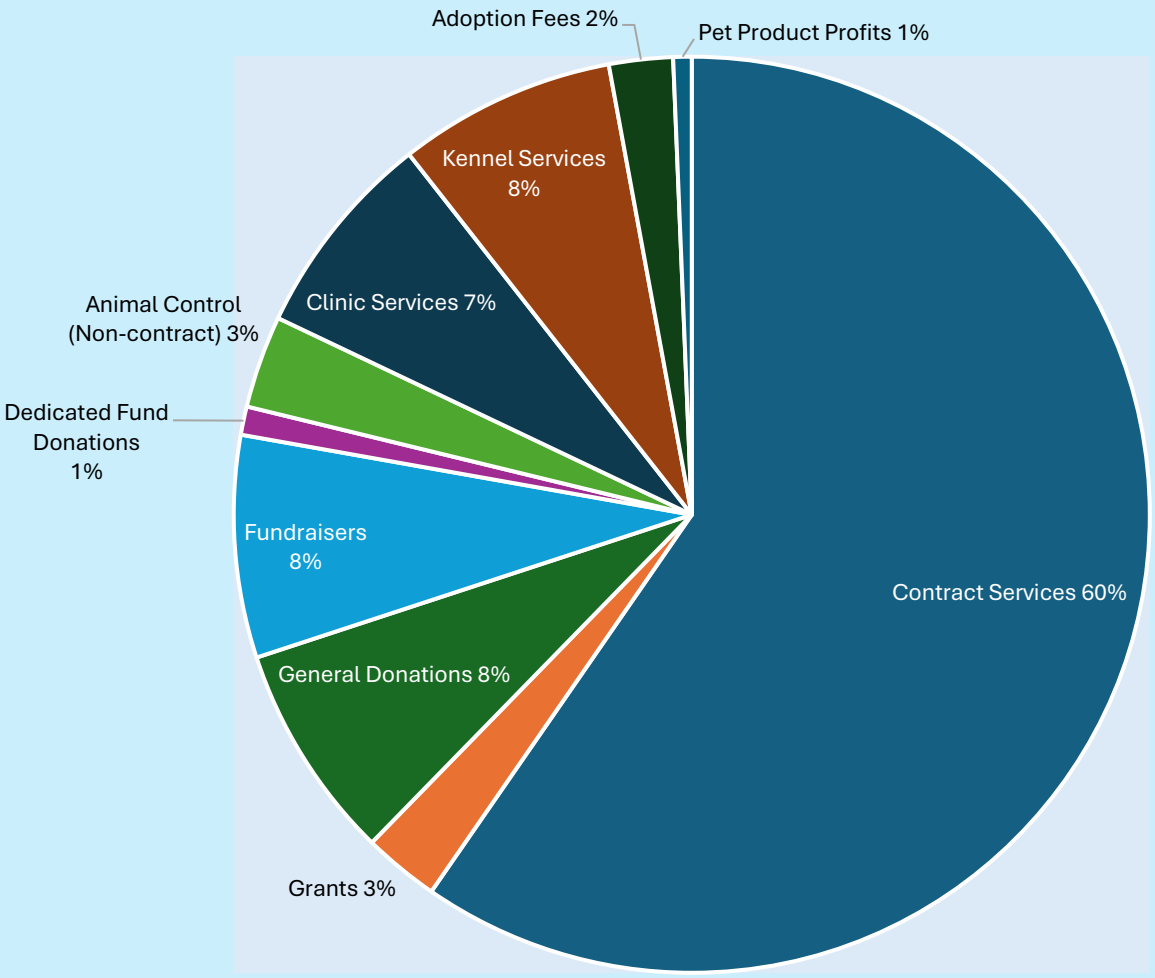
## Compassionate Care Fund

This fund assists those people who know the time has come for their animal but who are unable to afford the cost of providing compassionate end-of-life care for their animal.

# 2025 Income

## Fiscal Year 2025*

## Total Income: $2,251,159

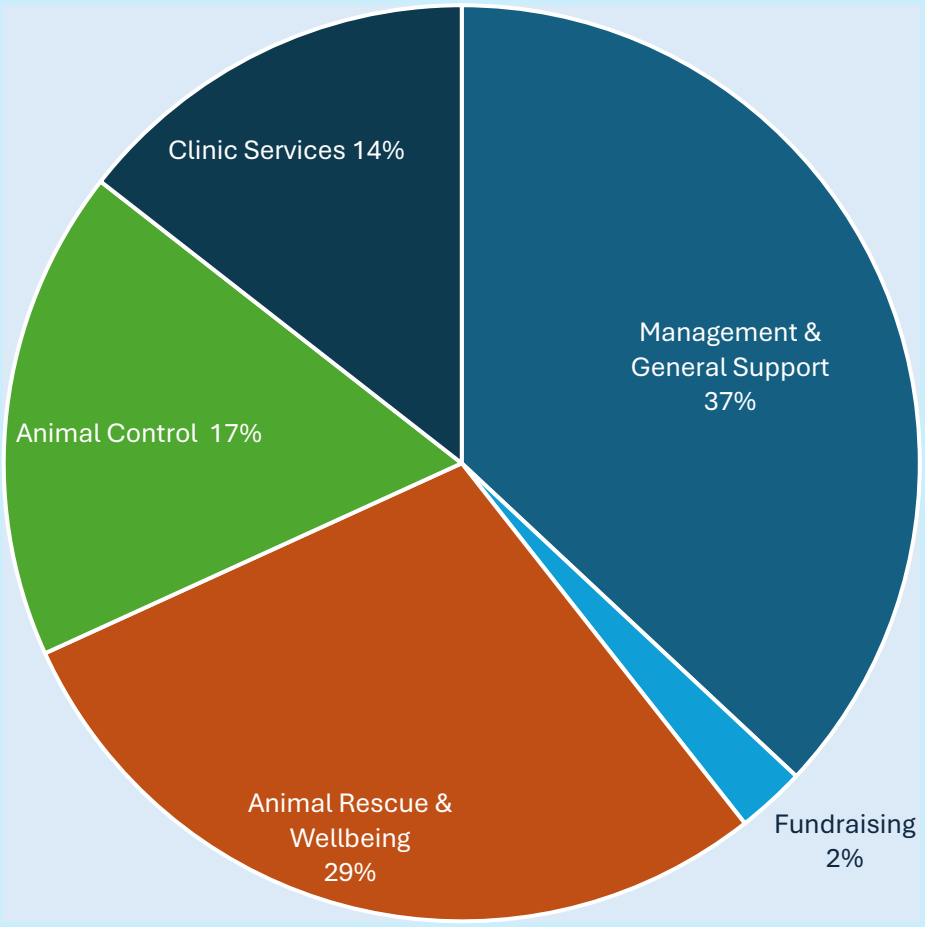



The fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30.

# 2025 Expenses

## Fiscal Year 2025*

## Total Expenses: $1,948,209




The fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30.

# The Power of a Planned Gift

**Just as we make arrangements to ensure our personal pets will be well cared for after we pass, we can make sure all our community's animals are rescued, sheltered, and adopted into good homes far into the futured. By including Juneau Animal Rescue in a will or other estate plan, animal lovers continue to support JAR's efforts to provide a safety net for Juneau's pets.**

**JAR can be named as a beneficiary of your remaining IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension, or other account. IRAs also offer many flexible ways to give. If you are interested in including JAR in your will or estate plan, please give Rick Driscoll a call at 907-789-0269 or stop by the shelter to talk with him.**

# Shelter Information

**Office Hours**
**Monday – Saturday:** 9:30am-5:30pm
**Sunday:** Closed to the Public

**Visiting Hours**
**Monday – Saturday (except Tuesdays)**
**From 1:00pm to 5:30pm** (*Last visits with animals begin at 5:15*)
**Sundays and Holidays:** Closed to the Public

**Holidays**

**JAR is closed on**

President's Day
Memorial Day
Juneteenth
4th of July
Labor Day
Thanksgiving
Christmas Day
New Year's Day

**Main Phone:**
(907) 789-0260

**Animal Control:**
(907) 789-6997

**Doggy Day Care:**
(907) 463-4883

*In the case of an after-hours ANIMAL EMERGENCY (when an animal is in danger of immediate harm), call (907)789-6997 and follow the prompts.*

**Juneau Animal Rescue**
**7705 Glacier Highway**
**Juneau, Alaska 99801**
**(907)789-0260**