

# We love dogs and the people who love dogs too

Annual Report 2021







## Our fourth year as Dogs Trust USA has brought us many challenges but much to celebrate.

**In the wake of Covid-19, we're seeing more dogs entering shelters, fewer being adopted, and shelters that are over-crowded and under-staffed. There are currently 60,000 more dogs in US shelters at risk of being killed, compared to this time last year. What we do know is that one of the main reasons dogs are being given up to shelters across the country is behavior problems that are easy to resolve with the right training, support and education.**

This dark narrative has only made us more determined to light the way to a better future for dogs and support the people who are already working tirelessly to help.

As part of a global organization, we've come together, sharing our expertise and experience to develop and deliver programs here in the US that have worked in other countries around the world. These programs are designed to support

local organizations and fill existing gaps in the education, training and support that's available. Through these programs, we aim to make sure every dog gets the safe and happy life they deserve.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of the people who love dogs – owners, donors, vets, rescue center staff, behaviorists, trainers and many more. Together we can make real change and help more and more dogs in the US live safe and happy lives.

With warmest regards,

**Owen Sharp**  
President, Dogs Trust USA



# Here to make the US a better place to be a dog

**Everything we do as an organization is driven by our mission; to help dogs and people live better together, through education, training and support. Over the last year we've grown our impact in each of these three areas.**



## Education

This year we launched our Professional Development Program, training staff at partner organizations up to be experts in dog behavior and care, and mentors to the rest of their team. So far, we've trained two groups of mentors, who are already training others too.

## Training

We've also established Dogs Trust USA Dog School in New York, which has hit the ground running. The 4-week training courses have been delivered online to dogs and their owners across the city.

## Support

In 2021 we've supported more local partner organizations than ever before. The Dogs Trust USA Grant Program has provided funding support to 9 new non-profits this year.

**For every dog to have a safe and happy life, many dog lovers need to come together – that's where we come in. We love dogs, and the people who love dogs too. When we all work together, we can make our country a better place to be a dog.**

**This report details what we've done in the last year, and touches on what we aim to achieve going forwards.**



## Vision:

**We believe every dog deserves a safe and happy life.**

## Mission:

**We're helping dogs and people to live better together - through education, training and support.**



# We love dogs and the people who love dogs too

Floppy ears, wet noses and tails that rarely stop wagging - our furry friends mean the world to us. It's the reason that Dogs Trust USA even exists.

We do what we do because we love dogs, and we think they deserve a loving home to live in. From giving dogs the best care possible, to making sure that each and every dog lover feels supported, we're here for you all.

Here's an overview of what we've been up to in 2021.



## Further education for the professionals

Our **Professional Development Program** trains staff in our partner organizations to be mentors for other staff in their team. This means that staff can get the professional support they need to go the distance in their career. And dogs get better quality care wherever they are, and whenever they need it.

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## Supporting one another

Our **Grant Funding Program** gives local organizations, shelters and rescues the funding and resources they need. Those resources can help the people who love dogs do the work they do, and make the US a better place to be a dog.

## Training that strengthens the bond

**Dog School USA** offers fun and affordable training courses for owners and their dogs, because we know that life isn't always easy. Training together strengthens the bond between an owner and their loyal companion. It also gives dog owners the tools to prevent problem behaviors developing, and with our virtual offering this can even be achieved from the comfort of their own home.

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# 1. Further education for the professionals

**One of the ways we're helping dogs and people to live better together is through education, and our Professional Development Program kicked off in full force with partners in New York last year.**

## How it works:

Our team have expertly developed an entirely new mentorship scheme with three tiers. The bronze level was delivered to two partner organizations, with the partners helping to define the three topics that form the foundation of the training: behavior and body language, how dogs learn and day-to-day activities.

The Dogs Trust USA team train members of staff to be mentors within their organization. We then support them while delivering the training to their first group of mentees. Not all of the mentors had previous experience teaching or mentoring, but all were chosen for their commitment, empathy and potential.

Over the last 12-months, we delivered the course through online group workshops and pre-recorded theory sessions. Each topic was broken down into three modules, giving the participants time to practice, embed and teach the content before moving on.

## Taking an agile approach:

Originally designed to be a face-to-face course, our team adapted it to work remotely. As we worked through the course, the mentors noticed even more benefits to this style of working. The more flexible the training, the easier it was to fit in alongside their day-to-day work in the kennels, which meant less time away from the dogs they care for.

Mentors found the pre-recorded voiceovers invaluable, as it meant they could easily play back the training when practicing the techniques with the dogs. They said it helped them to embed the training into their work more quickly. By taking an adaptable approach and listening to feedback, we're developing the course as we go to make sure it's the best it can be for the people we train and the dogs they care for.

## Making an impact:

This training has an impact on every dog that comes through the centers each year, and helps set them up for their forever homes. Over time, every dog that comes through the doors of our partner organizations will benefit from the training, and live happier as a result.

“

**“Since the training program, I’ve noticed a vast improvement in the way our staff describe and interpret behavior to adopters and the behavior team. I have also noticed a significant improvement in the handling - I need to jump in and correct their interactions much less than I used to. And now that they can spot the more subtle signs of fear, anxiety or stress, they’re much more cautious when working with the animals.”**



**Desirae Cambrelen**  
Manager, Behavior and Training,  
Bideawee, New York

“

**We only just completed topic 1 and I already feel that I’ve learned so much about dog behavior. I can explain what the dog is trying to communicate much more clearly to adopters and tell them what to look out for. The adopters I’ve done this with so far have been so grateful.**



**Mentee**  
Bideawee, New York

2

**partner  
organizations**

16

**mentors trained  
by Dogs Trust**

100+

**staff trained by  
new mentors**

86+

**training sessions  
delivered**



**Your donation would help to train people who are dedicating their working lives to helping dogs, help them go further in their career, and make sure that thousands more dogs are set up for their next step in life.**

**“““**

Since taking part in the training sessions I feel so much more confident in reading the body language of our dogs. Being able to understand dog behavior and explain what the dog is saying to adopters has made a huge difference.



**Mentee**  
Animal Care Centre (ACC)  
New York



## Looking ahead for the program

While one of our partner organizations has already completed the bronze program, the second is due to finish it over the coming year. We're already gearing up for the next tier of training. The silver program will begin in May 2022 with Bideawee in New York. After the success of the hybrid teaching style in the bronze program, this level will be delivered in the same way. The silver course will focus on basic training for rehoming and rehabilitation in more detail.

In the future, we plan to develop a gold level for specialized training and behavior staff which will delve deeper into specialist behavior topics such as dog-dog aggression, stranger issues, and repetitive behaviors. We're also exploring how we can help to support dog foster care charities in the future, either by training the staff or delivering it directly to foster carers.

As always, we're actively seeking new organizations to support and grow our reach. The more people we can train, the greater impact we can have on dogs across the US and the people who care for them too.

# “““

**When we found the mass on Layla Grace's left thigh, I was really scared. She already had kidney disease, and the high costs of the surgery and treatment was too much for me to afford. Thankfully, Sam's Hope helped us even though we were outside their service area. They helped us secure grant funding from Dogs Trust USA that covered the surgery, pain medication, antibiotics and dental surgery too. I can't tell you what it means to us!**



**Layla Grace and her owners**  
Sam's Hope  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Supporting owners with a low income**



# “““

**Deborah is one of those people we love to help, she has four well-cared for, happy dogs who she saved from a life on the streets. Her disability makes it difficult for her to walk very far, so with funding from Dogs Trust USA, we were able to fit secure fencing all around the yard. Now she can simply open the side door and let Rowdy, Nola, Precious and Chronic run about all they want. All dog owners should get the support they need, no matter their income, background or physical ability.**



**Keeping the population down**



**Deborah, Rowdy, Nola, Precious and Chronic**  
Friends Of Indianapolis Dogs Outside (FIDO)  
Indianapolis, Indiana

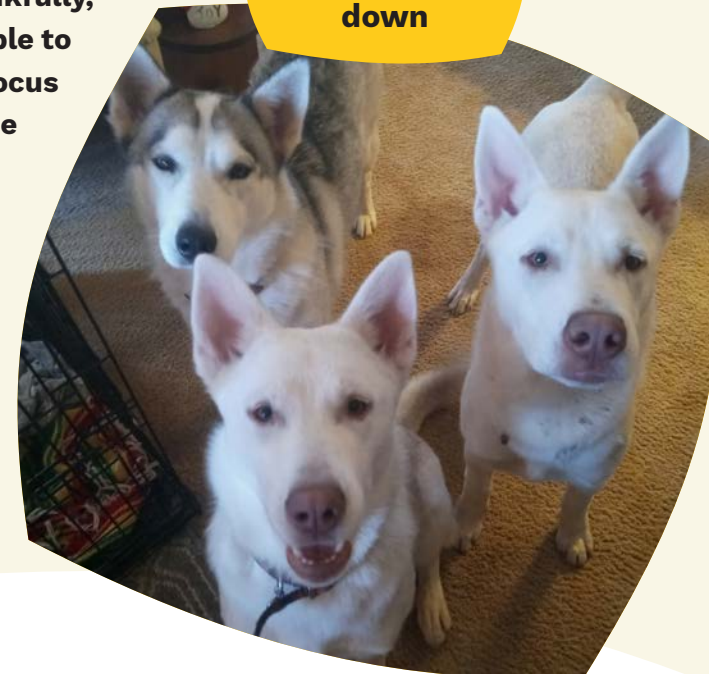
# “““

**Spay/neutering my two dogs was more than I could afford so I applied to the Sacramento SPCA's 'Pit Bull We Pay to Spay' program. But as Heidi and Bear are Pit Bull and Huskey cross, they were initially rejected. Thankfully, thanks to Dogs Trust USA funding, they were able to add Heidi and Bear to the program. Now I can focus on giving Heidi and Bear a happy life without the worry of an unexpected litter.**



**Pedro Silva, Heidi and Bear**  
Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Pit Bull We Pay to Spay Program  
Sacramento, California

**Keeping the population down**



**Supporting owners with a low income**

# “““

**A nasty fracture while hiking the lava fields left Franklin's owner with no choice but to surrender her dog to the local vet clinic. The clinic performed a crude amputation that evening, but expensive complications in surgery meant they relinquished Franklin to us the next day. Dr. Thompson-Kerr did a reconstructive repair, which was paid for with grant funding. We found Franklin's devastated owner on social media and managed to reunite them - a happily ever after for both dog and owner.**



**Franklin and his owner**  
Maui Humane Society  
Hawaii



## 2. Supporting one another

Every year, around 2.47 million dogs are taken into shelters and rescues in the United States. That figure went up by 60,000 over the last year as a result of the pandemic, and local organizations were already overcrowded. Our Grant Funding Program supports small, local organizations to do even more of the great work they're doing.

### What we've done:

This year we awarded 9 grants of up to \$25,000 each to incredible organizations across the country that have been making a real difference to dogs in their area. Another two have been approved and will be granted in the coming months.

We chose organizations that support our two main aims: to support dog owners on a low income and keep the dog population down in areas that need support the most. The organizations broadly covered four categories: general support for low-income owners, veterinary support for low-income owners, spay/neutering programs and fence building in areas with high stray populations.



Since 2018, the grants funded by Dogs Trust USA have made a significant impact on dogs around the US:

**6,309**  
dogs neutered

**1,898**  
dogs vaccinated

**4,916**  
dogs rehomed

**590**  
dogs treated for  
illness or injury

**178**  
completed fence  
projects

**1,759**  
dogs microchipped

**3,210**  
dogs saved from  
surrender or euthanasia



## The year ahead

In 2022, we'll focus our funding on the states with the most urgent dog welfare issues. This spans most of the southern states, where stray dog populations are high and rising, and many organizations still don't have a no-kill policy. To save as many dogs as we can, we'll be targeting the funds we have available on this area.

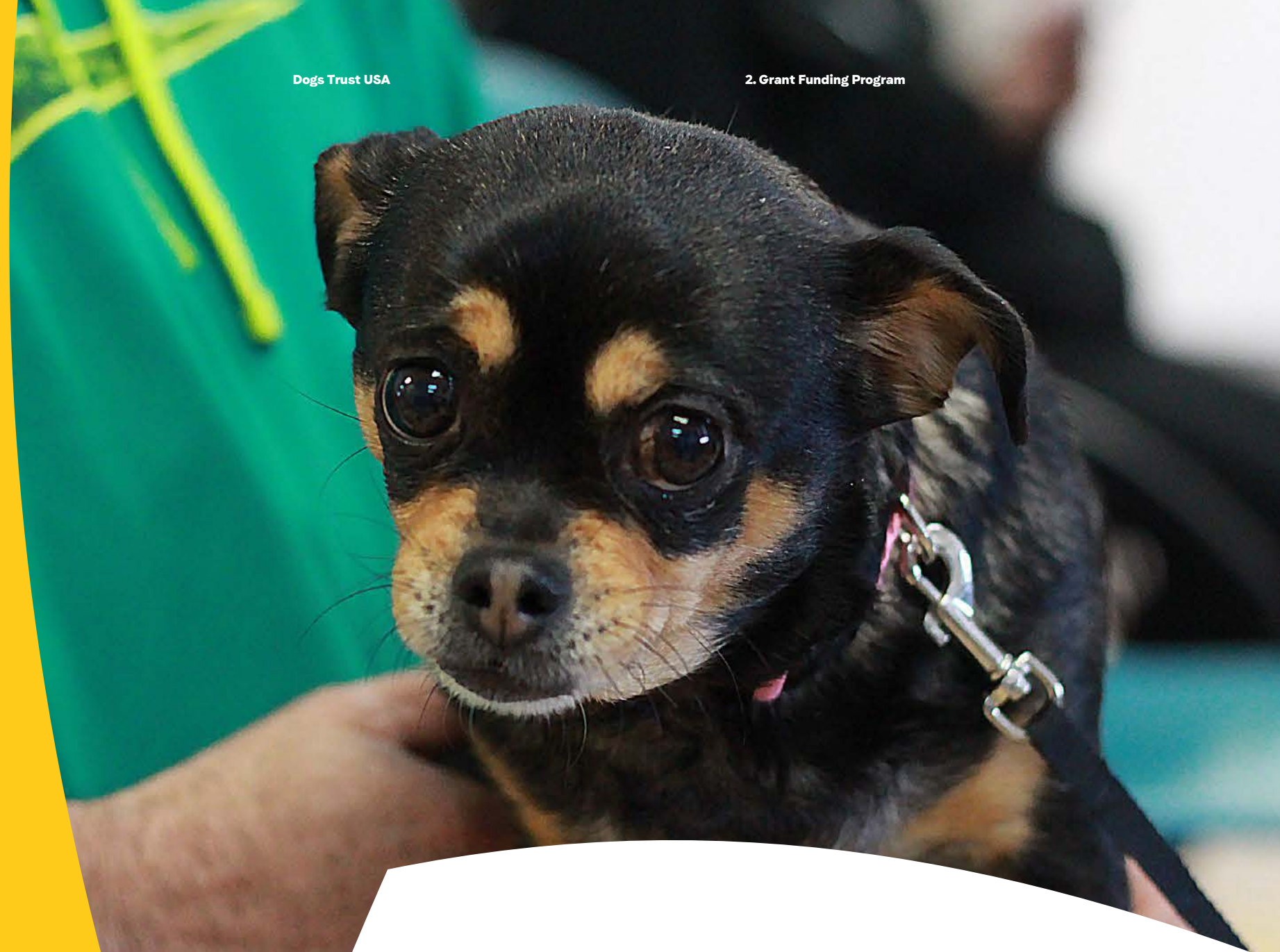
We'll continue to partner with organizations that share our long-term goals for dogs in the US – to give every dog the safe and happy life they deserve. The non-profits we help will use the donations made to Dogs Trust USA to give as many of our furry friends as possible the best chance in life.

“

**When little Eva came to the dog food pantry at Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), she was really struggling with lumps in her mammary glands. Her owner had already taken her to the emergency veterinary hospital but struggled with high costs and a language barrier. As soon as we saw her, we gave her an initial examination and were able to plan surgery to fix an inguinal hernia, remove the masses, and spay her – all in one procedure.**



**Eva and her family**  
Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS),  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



**Your donation would help us to support even more of the incredible organizations across the US that are supporting dog owners on a low income and helping keep stray dog populations down.**

**Every donation makes the world of difference to a dog and a dog lover somewhere in the US.**



# “”

A common problem we find with adopters in the US is that people want to return puppies for predictable, easily rectifiable, and completely avoidable behaviors. Being able to support our adopters and offer ongoing training support helps us to make sure that puppies from our shelters can live long and happy lives with their forever families.

The Dog School team at Dogs Trust USA has done amazing work teaching our staff to deliver deep and comprehensive training to our adopters. Now we're able to support our community with virtual and in-person classes for our adopters and help strengthen the bond between dogs and their parents.



**Leslie**  
President of Bideawee  
Bideawee, New York



**Mitch and Leo**  
Animal Care Centre (ACC)  
New York

# “”

During the Zoom class, I was able to get feedback on my technique in real time. Our teacher had great suggestions and answered any questions I had. I think I'll be able to apply some of the techniques to training more behaviors too.



# “”

We loved this experience! Our teacher was really encouraging and patient with our questions. It was so helpful to learn more techniques and now I feel like I have tools and resources to keep training Coconut. Thank you, thank you.



**Olaitan & Coconut**  
Animal Care Centre (ACC)  
New York



### 3. Training that strengthens the bond

**Pulling on the leash, picking up scraps from the sidewalk, chewing on shoes and furniture – our furry friends can sometimes be a handful. In fact, problem behavior is one of the key reasons dogs are abandoned or given up to shelters. But most of these behaviors can be solved at home. With the right training we can get dogs and their owners speaking the same language.**

#### How it works:

This year we launched Dog School in the US to help owners solve problem behaviors before they become too much and keep tails wagging in homes across the country. Dog School offers fun, affordable courses that cover body language and basic training and are designed for dogs and owners to do together.

#### The journey so far:

Virtual classes started in New York in May 2021, and over the year we trained dogs and their owners. Many of these dogs had recently been adopted from one of our partner organizations - Animal Care Centres of New York (ACC) and Bideawee.

#### What we learnt:

Adapted from successful courses delivered across the UK, the Dog School program was originally designed to be taught face-to-face, but we adapted the training to work online so we could start offering it throughout the pandemic.

To our surprise, we found that online classes were more suitable for some owners and some dogs too. It removed barriers such as transport costs, and travel time and allowed us to reach an entirely new audience who wouldn't have been able to join face-to-face classes. It's also meant we've been able to help dogs who are anxious and can't cope with some of the elements of the class environment without causing distress.

Overall, the owners we taught have seen significant improvements with their training, feel far more confident to continue using the techniques they learnt in class and also felt a stronger bond with their dog.

**We recently asked New York based dog owners about the impact of training on their relationship to their dog.**

**This is what we found:**

**33%** of dog owners who took part in our survey said they have concerns about their dog's behavior.

Of these,

**85%** said their dog's behaviour was having a negative impact on their life to some degree.

**When asked to elaborate,**

**45%** of these owners said their dog's behaviour made them feel stressed,

**37%** reported feeling nervous,

**23%** felt embarrassed,

**18%** and felt fearful.





## What's next?

Now the program is up and running, we'll spend the next year expanding our reach to more people and more dogs who need it.

The number of enquiries for classes in New York at the start of 2022 had doubled compared to the end of 2021. We'll continue to offer virtual classes alongside face-to-face ones, for more flexibility and to remove any common barriers to taking part.

As well as increasing the number of shelter organizations we partner with, we'll start providing training from foster based rescues and a day care center in New York too. In May, we'll take the classes over to LA, teaching at partner shelter organizations in person and online as well.

**Your donation would help to fund more Dog School USA classes in more locations around the country, so that people like Raffaella are more connected to their loyal companions than ever before.**

“

**Josie is my first dog so I'm brand new to this. Both Josie and I learned a ton and I feel so much more confident communicating with her after this course. It's been brilliant! And has definitely strengthened the bond we have. Thank you!**



**Raffaella & Josie**  
Bideawee, New York





## As always, a huge thank you to our generous founders and their four-legged friends:

**Melissa and Josh Arker**

**Claire Ambrosio and Jim Michalski**

**Stephanie Berger**

**The Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Foundation**

**Susan Bloomberg** – in honor of Hugo, beloved companion of Georgina Bloomberg and a much-loved family member

**Stephanie and Michael Bulger**

**Martha and Kyle Boyd** – in memory of Heather, beloved companion of Ian Rose

**Jim and Veronica Carbone**

**Betsy Beers & Bruce Cormicle**

**Barbara and Rodgin Cohen**

**Laurie and Brian Conroy**  
(The Conroy Family Foundation)

**Manuela & James Goren**

**Allan Heinberg**

**Carrie Denning Jackson**  
(The Ripple Foundation)

**Marilyn W. & Steven J. Joffe**

**Peter Nowalk** – a Donor Advised Fund of The US Charitable Gift Trust

**Jill, Alan, Hilary & Lindsay Rappaport**

**Frank E. & Kimba Wood Richardson**  
(The Richardson Foundation)

**The Riggio Foundation**

**Rick Rosenthal & Nancy Stephens**  
(The Rosenthal Family Foundation)

**The Rivaya Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund**

**Steven A. & Roberta Denning**  
(The Sage Foundation)

**The Flora Family Foundation**

**Dogs Trust**

**Dogs Trust Worldwide**

**Dr Jeffrey Young**

**Craig Weiner**





# We can't thank you enough

From the East Coast to West, to every dog lover, for every donation – your gift means the world to us and our canine pals too. Because of you, we're able to provide the education, training and support needed to help dogs and people to live better together. Together we're making our country a better place to be a dog.

Let's provide the education, training and support needed to help dogs and people to live better together by:

- Reducing the number of dogs who are killed unnecessarily
- Helping more dogs find their forever homes
- Giving owners the training and support they need to live well with their dog
- Create real lasting change and make the US a much more dog-friendly place.

To see what we're doing and stay up to date, go to [www.dogstrustusa.org](http://www.dogstrustusa.org)



# Thank you to those who generously supported our efforts this year

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Melissa and Josh Arker  | Joe Kennedy   |
| Duane Berlin  | Bruce Lev   |
| The Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Foundation  | Milbank, LLP  |
| Susan Bloomberg   | Francisco Mora  |
| Laurie and Brian Conroy   | Natalia Nastaskin   |
| Dogs Trust  | Laura J. Niles Foundation   |
| Dogs Trust Worldwide  | The Rachael Ray Foundation™   |
| ICAP  | Rick Rosenthal and Nancy Stephens (The Rosenthal Family Foundation) |
| Michael Frantz — In Honor of Mama Indranee who loved dogs and always put others first | Jean Schulz   |
| Regina Bauer Frankenberg Foundation   | Owen Sharp  |
| Allan Heinberg  | The Otis Booth Foundation and Stephanie Booth Shafran               |
| Carrie Denning Jackson (The Ripple Foundation)  | Ambassador and Mrs. Ronald P. Spogli                                |
|   | Helen Walker  |



# Financials

Dogs Trust USA is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization qualified to receive tax-deductible contributions. These financial summaries were compiled by management. A copy of the 990 IRS Form and audited accounts can be obtained by sending a written request to Mr Owen Sharp, President, Dogs Trust USA, 1350 Avenue of the Americas, Floor 2, Suite 266, New York, NY 10019.

## Total Income:

**\$990,042**

## Total Expenditure:

**\$1,012,212**

## Program Services:

**\$526,181**

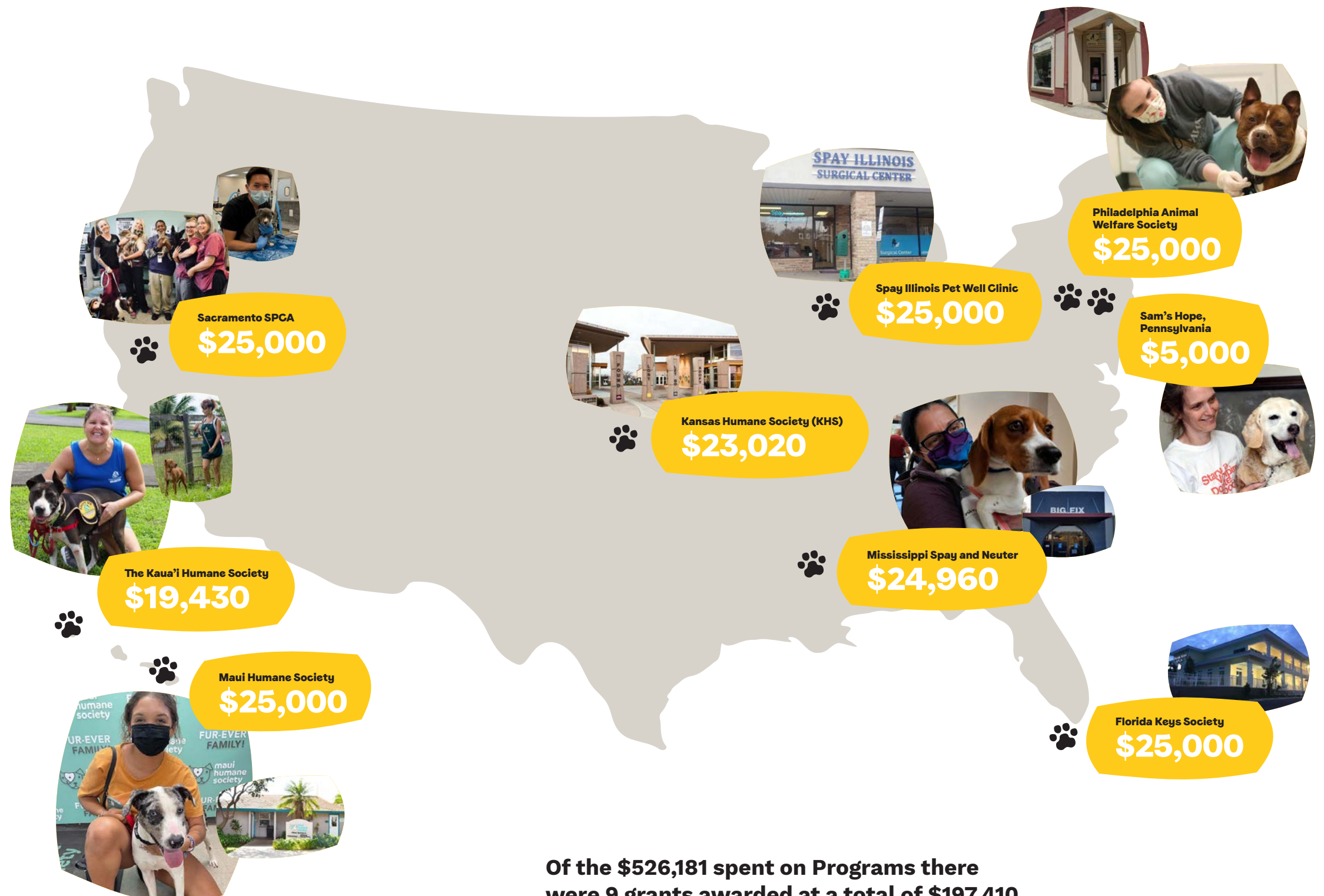
## Fundraising:

**\$287,974**

## Management and General:

**\$198,057**

## The 2021 grants are as follows:



Of the \$526,181 spent on Programs there were 9 grants awarded at a total of \$197,410.



# Meet our Board of Directors

**The Dogs Trust USA Board is responsible for the strategic direction, financial stewardship and legal compliance of our charity. The Board meets twice a year at minimum to keep everything on track and assign day-to-day responsibilities to our executive team. When necessary, such as during the pandemic, the board meets more frequently than normal to ensure effective risk management and business continuity.**

Our Board members have a wealth of experience and are appointed based on knowledge and experience relevant to our strategy. Their expertise covers international organization development, animal welfare, veterinary services and finance, and all Board members are life-long dog owners. The role of a Board member is unpaid, and we are grateful for the time they give us. Every new member of the board goes through a formal induction process that outlines their role, responsibilities and duties to the charity.

The Dogs Trust USA Board maintains a Conflicts of Interest Policy and any real or perceived conflicts of interest or loyalty are disclosed ahead of each meeting.

**For more information on our governance, please visit our GuideStar profile: [www.guidestar.org/profile/82-2390086#summary](https://www.guidestar.org/profile/82-2390086#summary)**



**Mr. Brett Llewellyn**  
Treasurer



**Ms. Helen Walker**  
Executive Vice President



**Dr. Susan Monger DVM**



**Mr. Owen Sharp**  
President



**Mr. Jonathon Jackson**  
(appointed November 2021)



**Mrs. Veronica Carbone**



**Ms. Karolina Walkowicz**  
Secretary



**Dr. Jeffrey D Young DVM**  
(resigned October 2021)



**We love to talk about all things dogs  
Get in touch whenever you fancy it**

**[www.dogstrustusa.org](http://www.dogstrustusa.org)**

**Meredith Beck**

Vice President  
of Development  
[meredith.beck@dogstrustusa.org](mailto:meredith.beck@dogstrustusa.org)  
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**Please write to us at:**

Dogs Trust USA,  
1350 Avenue of the Americas,  
Floor 2, Suite 266,  
New York, NY 10019



**DogsTrustUSA**

**A dog is for life, not  
just for the holidays**

Founded in 2017, Dogs Trust USA Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of dogs across the United States - and around the world. Our EIN number is 82-2390086. Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS rules and regulations.