



2020 Annual Report



An unprecedented year resulted in tremendous growth of BARCS' community and family support programs, along with expanded visions for the future of animal welfare in Baltimore.



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Organization Information

Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS) Tax ID: 86-1130456

Our Board Leadership

Alicia L. Shelton (Chair)

Esq., Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

Kathy Harvey (Past Chair)

Founder and President, Harvey Agency

Dr. Jay McDonnell, DACVIM (Vice Chair)

Veterinary Neurology and Imaging of the Chesapeake

Katherine Turner (Treasurer)

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Esq., Law Offices of Frank D. Boston, III

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Founder and Executive Director, BARCS

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Janice Silvers

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Julianne Tarver

Esq., Maryland Legal Aid

Dear Friends,

How does one define gratitude? For me, it's a deep feeling that no combination of words could ever adequately express. From the moment I walked into our old shelter on Stockholm Street, and every single lifesaving, often difficult, and miraculous day in between, our community has shown that they care deeply about animals in need.

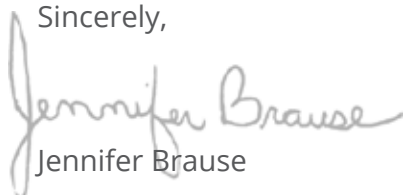
The feeling of gratitude continued to grow in 2020 for all of us at BARCS. This pandemic year brought many uncertain moments where we were not sure if we were going to be able to provide the same services and lifesaving programs at our shelter. It didn't matter how unpredictable the world outside got, animals with nowhere else to turn—homeless, lost, injured, abused, neglected and abandoned—still entered our shelter every single day in 2020. Each of those animals needed medical care, food, shelter, rehabilitation and a second chance. But with each uncertainty, our dedicated supporters, volunteers, adopters, staff members and community came through. Because of each of you, no animal went without this year.

There are not enough words to describe how amazed and grateful we are for the dedication, compassion and generosity of the thousands of individuals and families who, despite their own personal struggles, unwaveringly helped us save lives in 2020. You have been a critical part in finding health and happy endings for thousands of pets in Baltimore.

When we look back at this historical year we believe many people will remember it as the year that all of us came a little bit closer to understanding the natural patience, forgiveness, loyalty and selflessness of the animals that we serve.

On behalf of all the voiceless pets whose lives have been saved at BARCS, we extend our warmest and sincerest gratitude to our entire community for your help in 2020.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Brause

BARCS Founder and Executive Director





Under Our Roof...

7,845

animals, including cats, dogs, wildlife, farm animals, exotic animals and small companion pets entered BARCS in 2020

At BARCS, our numbers are more than just statistics. Every single one is a life saved, an hour volunteered or resources received by a member of our community. That's what BARCS is all about: thousands of individual moments, choices and successes that make up the bigger picture. And, while 2020 was far from a typical year, community support allowed us to still make big impacts in our lifesaving programs.

..... How we gave them second chances

52,000+



veterinary exams and follow-up exams were completed in 2020 for homeless shelter pets and owned pets in crisis

1,235



animals were cared for in volunteer foster homes, with 400 additional foster homes "on deck" to help the next animal in need



7,271

animals benefitted from our training and enrichment program, which supports animals in the shelter, animals in foster care and the ongoing training needs of adopted pets

12,243

volunteer hours were donated, both in the shelter and from the safety of home, to care for our animals and enhance our programs

2,634



virtual adoptions helped animals find loving homes while keeping our shelter staff and greater community safe

BARCS' First Virtual Adoptions!



*Pictured (clockwise from top left):
Animal name;
animal name;
animal name*

While the world around us was shutting down, BARCS remained open as an essential lifesaving service to Baltimore's animals. Animals coming in every day meant animals still needed to go out too. We pivoted almost immediately to virtual adoptions to save lives, and the results were exactly what we had hoped for: safety for our community and loving homes for life.

Adopters loved that they could use their phones and computers to first e-meet animals safely from their homes. Our foster families and adoption staff noted that adopters asked great questions to make sure they were making the right match—often prompted by getting to see the dog or cat in the foster home setting.



Let's Talk About Shelter Population

Our numbers look different in this pandemic year. Here's why...

At BARCS, we believe that animal sheltering must go beyond our kennels. Our mission as an organization is not just to provide short-term care and positive outcomes for homeless, unwanted and abused animals, but also to share ongoing resources with pet owners in our community. Each year—including the 2020 pandemic year—BARCS strives to help more animals with the ultimate goal of saving all healthy and treatable animals. However, as intake prevention resources grow and our shelter increasingly takes in harder to place animals due to old age, medical or behavior issues, our live release rate may lower.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced BARCS to change our operations. One of these adjustments meant that we limited our intake to emergency cases only. Healthy, adoptable animals who had loving families were kept out of the shelter with the help of our Community Resource department. The animals who came into our care were in true crisis: animals with no owners, medical needs, severe behavioral issues and signs of abuse and neglect. This shift in our

2020 Dog & Cat Outcomes Report

Animal Count at Beginning of the Year	224
Total Intake for 2020	6,896
Adoption	2,634
Returned to Owner	555
Transferred to Partner Agency ¹	1,145
Return to Field ² (Community Cats returned altered and healthy to thriving colony)	1,572
Died/Lost in Care ³	32
Euthanasia at Owner's Request ⁴	241
Euthanasia All Other Than Owner's Request ⁵	766
Total Dispositions/Outcomes	6,945
Animal Count at End of the Year (Still in Care)	175
Positive Yearly Outcome (Save Rate)	88.7%

* Chart notes 1-5 can be found on page 6.

population is reflected in our outcome data, which has resulted in a slight decrease in our live release rate. In 2019, our save rate was 90%; in 2020, it was 88.7%.

It's important to keep in mind that this number, 88%, does not include the thousands of animals who were never admitted to our shelter. These pets would be adoptable; but more often than not, they come from homes where they are greatly loved and cared for. Unfortunately, their humans are in

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a personal crisis, which is why they reached out to BARCS. Instead of forcing these people to give up their pet only to be adopted by someone else, our Community Resource team assisted thousands of pet owners who were contemplating surrendering their animals. Solutions included low-cost veterinary options, food, crisis boarding and/or behavioral training.

By developing strategies to keep pets in their homes and strengthen the bond between families and their furry friends, we are able to promise our kenneling space and intake admissions to animals who are truly in crisis.



* Chart Notes from the 2020 Animal Outcomes Report (From Page 5)

BARCS calculates positive yearly outcomes and follows record keeping practices as set forth by the Asilomar Accords, a universal data matrix for shelters and rescues to track and report critical data. Asilomar Accords do not include owner requested euthanasia for unhealthy or untreatable pets when calculating shelter euthanasia percentages (see chart note 4).

1) As the largest animal shelter in our state, BARCS relies heavily on our partnerships with nearby shelters and rescue groups (both locally and nationally) to aid with our high volume intake. These organizations take not only cats and dogs, but also exotic pets, farm animals and wildlife animals that come to our shelter. **2)** Previously operated by Best Friends Animal Society staff, BARCS took over the Community Cat Program on July 1, 2016. As a humane way to manage the outdoor cat population, BARCS traps, vaccinates, spays/neuters and provides additional medical care as needed to outdoor cats and then returns them to their original outdoor homes. **3)** BARCS is an open-admission shelter, which means that we take in and care for all animals that come to our door. Because of this, we get dozens of critically sick and injured animals daily. Our staff veterinarians and Franky Fund partner clinics work to save the lives of all treatable animals, but sometimes, despite our best efforts, they succumb to their injuries/illnesses. In addition, during the summer months, our shelter takes in hundreds of neonatal kittens. While most of these newborns are able to be saved with round-the-clock care and bottle feeding, some—despite our greatest efforts—are unable to thrive. **4)** Owner requested euthanasia is a low cost public service that BARCS provides to Baltimore City pet owners in need. This program is for pets that come to our shelter that are terminally sick, suffering, unable to be treated or have a dangerous bite history. BARCS' medical team and program staff evaluate all requests for euthanasia, and if we feel those animals can be saved, they are. **5)** The most common reasons for euthanasia are animals that are aggressive, animals that are seriously sick and unable to be medically treated, and animals that have reached the end of their lifespan. Also factoring into this selection is cost-to-save, foster availability and shelter space for long-term, intensive care. BARCS saved all healthy and friendly animals again this year and continues to save more and more medical cases each year thanks to donations to our medical care funds.

Family Comes First

2020 brought unforeseen changes to the way the nation thinks about the function of “the animal shelter.” BARCS welcomed this opportunity for innovation in how we serve our community.



Over the past year, the precautionary measures of COVID-19, to keep our community safe, have led to changes in the way we care for homeless animals at BARCS. The pandemic put a strong emphasis, and necessity, on keeping pets in their homes and communities and reducing the number of animals housed in kennels at our shelter.

From this global and community crisis has emerged the foundation for a better world for pets and the people who love them.

Here in our community, most issues surrounding animal welfare, including neglect, abuse and homelessness, stem from a lack of resources, fear of judgement and lack of readily available services. BARCS is focusing our mission on animal social services, and compassionately serving families in crisis, a model that takes the best lessons learned from human social services, public health, education, animal welfare and other fields.

Along with growing our emergency and crisis boarding initiative, BARCS has several programs designed to empower our community to better care for their pets: intake prevention with low-cost or free resources; low-cost

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and free community vaccine days; free TNR services for outdoor cats; and free training and behavior advice.

These lifesaving programs are working to help pet owners in need receive the care and attention their animals need, making it much less likely for them to give up their animals. When owned animals receive the resources they need, they don't end up homeless—and fewer homeless animals is the ultimate goal of animal welfare!

Pets with families who love them should not find themselves homeless when resources and solutions exist to help them. Our vision for the future is to continue to grow and support programs that get lost pets home quickly, help pet owners who are struggling to meet their pets' needs, and preserve families, leaving the kennels in our shelter reserved for only those pets who truly need to be here.



We Believe:

-  Pets shouldn't have to lose their families when there are resources and solutions available to them.
-  Pet owners shouldn't avoid shelters, services and help out of fear of judgement.
-  A family crisis doesn't have to lead to surrender, which only causes more pain and heartache.
-  The mental health benefits of owning a dog or cat have been proven by many scientific studies. Animals help with depression, anxiety and stress. In addition, they provide companionship and ease loneliness.
-  BARCS is a humane organization. Supporting the preservation of human-animal bonds is the best, and most humane, answer to crisis.

2020 Timeline at BARCS

Saving Lives Against All Odds

January



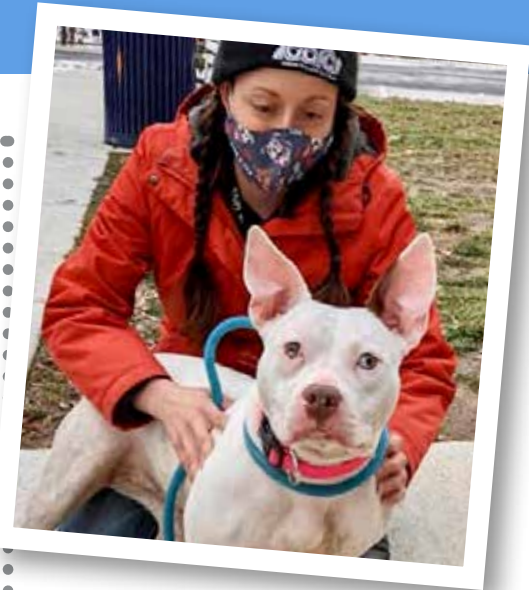
BARCS Dog Wedding

On January 25th, Beans and Angel, two BARCS alum dogs and best friends, were wed at the historic Lord Baltimore Hotel in front of a room of 250 devoted BARCS supporters. Guests canoodled with the kitten bridesmaids and danced the night away. This silly yet elegant fundraiser was the toast of the town and helped us raise critical funds to support our shelter programs.

February

Positively Adoptable

At BARCS, we believe in second chances for every animal that comes through our doors, including cats who have tested positive for FIV and FeLV. In February, we announced our new adoption program, Positively Adoptable, which waives adoption fees for FIV+ and FeLV+ cats to help them find homes. In 2020, ## positive cats found homes through this program.



March

COVID-19 Stay at Home Order

Being an open-admission shelter took on a whole new meaning for BARCS as we continued to take in and serve animals on extremely limited staffing and resources while the world around us was shutting down. As an essential service for homeless animals in Baltimore City and pet owners in need, BARCS would remain open every single day in 2020.

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May

BARCS' Big Moving Day!

On May 5th, BARCS moved into our new shelter home at 2490 Giles Road in Baltimore's Cherry Hill neighborhood. To prepare for our move, we cleared the shelter with the help of adopters and fosters in our community.



Summer

Saving Lives Against All Odds

At BARCS, our foster program has always been a robust initiative serving as a lifeline for nearly 2,000 animals per year. Prior to the pandemic, the program prioritized foster placement for animals who were underage, had long-term medical needs or otherwise were not thriving in the shelter environment. In 2020, we had to vastly expand our foster placement of healthy and adoptable animals. Doing this allowed us to maintain our lifesaving outcomes by continuing adoptions outside of our shelter walls with minimal human-to-human contact and refocused our sheltering efforts on emergency and specialized cases that needed immediate care within our facility.

October



BARCStoberfest Goes Virtual

With the inability to gather our annual crowd of 3,000+ pet owners and their pups in Patterson Park, BARCS had to get creative for the 16th annual BARCStoberfest. We did a virtual run and walk, had a carry out beer garden and moved the pumpkin pie eating contest from the stage to Facebook.

Year-End

Community Vaccine Clinic Returns

BARCS was able to resurrect our long-standing, public, low-cost vaccine and microchip clinic after pausing for pandemic safety. Our shelter relocation placed BARCS in a neighborhood where we see our highest animal surrender and animal control impoundment intake. Although we were hampered for the first few months by the pandemic and strict quarantine gathering limitations, we knew that when the time came, we would bring our clinic right to our new backyard—the most impactful place we could be!

Spotlight on: **BARCS' Franky Fund**

In 2020, BARCS treated more than 800 animals through the Franky Fund. The pandemic may have put most of the world on pause, but not BARCS. As a nonprofit organization operating as essential service to our community, our doors never closed. That means that animals with emergency and specialized medical needs still came to us every single day. Saving their lives would not have been possible without the growing number of veterinary hospitals we have the privilege of being partnered with. These hospitals and clinics have helped BARCS save the lives of thousands of animals that come through our doors. We would not be able to do what we do without them.

As the BARCS Franky Fund Coordinator, Rachel works directly with our partner veterinary clinics to ensure that animals receive the care they need. Rachel has been with BARCS for 11 years—first as an adoption counselor and then in her current role.

Rachel says, “I have worked with



animals in some way my entire life. I have been in several roles at BARCS over the years, but I love being the Franky Fund Coordinator because I get to help so many animals reach a positive outcome—an outcome that may not have been possible without this program.”

In her years at BARCS, Rachel has seen many moving Franky Fund cases. One of her favorites from 2020 was a dog named Donut. In March, Donut was found on the dumping room floor of the Baltimore City trash incinerator. It was only when the front-end loader operator saw the dog move that he stopped his machine to rescue him. The operator found that Donut was alive but unable to get up. He quickly pulled Donut out and to safety. It was a very fortunate

circumstance for Donut that he was visible on top of the debris at that moment. His body had multiple cuts and puncture wounds, and he was suffering from severe injuries to his front legs. Donut was rushed to BARCS, where our veterinarian team examined him.

“While Donut physically looked like he was too far gone, he showed us that he still had hope by wagging his tail and trying to move his face close to ours for comfort,” says Rachel. “Everyone who helped him that morning kept talking about how all Donut wanted to do is give kisses.” Donut was only at our shelter briefly before being rushed to a partnering Franky Fund clinic ER due to his grave condition.

Over several months, Rachel coordinated for Donut to have multiple, significant surgeries and follow-up appointments to heal his legs and restore his ability to walk. All the while, one of Donut’s rescuers from the incinerator, Kevin Hagner, couldn’t stop thinking about him. Sadly, the day before he helped rescue Donut, his family dog had passed away. He wondered if maybe it was a sign.

Once Donut was ready, we reunited him with Kevin, and it was love at first sight. Even Donut remembered him, wagging his tail and prancing in a way we had not seen before. Kevin knew that Donut belonged in his family, and so they adopted him.

Rachel says, “I am incredibly lucky to work with such a caring and generous network of hospital partners through the Franky Fund. They love BARCS’ animals like they are their own, and it makes all the difference in the number of animals we are able to save each year.”

A big thank you to all who supported the Franky Fund in 2020. Without you, this 100% donor funded program would not exist. It is because of you that hundreds of animals each year are saved, heal and go on to live joyful and fulfilling lives.



Hey Fosters,



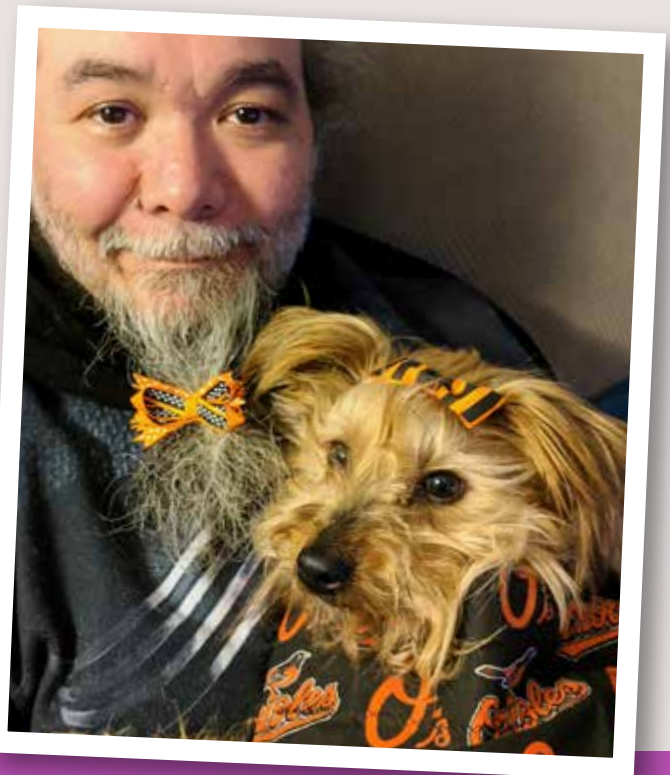
and a large foster-on-deck list who were at the ready to help us ease the number of animals coming into the shelter.

This year, fosters, you not only improved the lives of shelter animals in a very direct way, but you selflessly served our greater community. Whether you were helping a dog learn to love and be loved, watching an injured kitten recover from illness or boarding a pet for a family who came to us in crisis, your care and attention single-handedly changed the lives of animals and families for the better.

You opened not only your hearts but your homes to animals in need. Each of you are passionate, brave, selfless, caring and, most importantly, lifesavers.

Thank you, fosters, for helping BARCS weather the storm in 2020. You not only mean the world to us, but to the thousands of animals who share your homes with you each year.

With your dedication, BARCS' foster program has always been a robust initiative serving as a lifeline for nearly 2,000 animals per year. Up until the 2020 pandemic, the program prioritized foster placement for animals who were underage, had long-term medical needs, or otherwise were not thriving in the shelter environment. When the pandemic hit, we had to vastly expand our foster placement of healthy and adoptable animals. Doing this allowed us to maintain our lifesaving outcomes by continuing adoptions outside of our shelter walls with minimal human-to-human contact and refocusing our sheltering efforts on emergency and specialized cases that needed immediate care within our facility. We gained hundreds of new foster families



Financial Report

Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Revenue

- Private Donations: \$2,548,686
- Grant Funding: \$515,170
- Special Events: \$559,617
- Municipal Operating Agreement: \$1,260,836
- Fees for Service:
 - Pet Adoption: \$92,588
 - Baltimore City Pet Licenses: \$112,585
 - Public Clinics: \$15,519
 - Other: \$134,280

Total Revenue: \$5,795,095

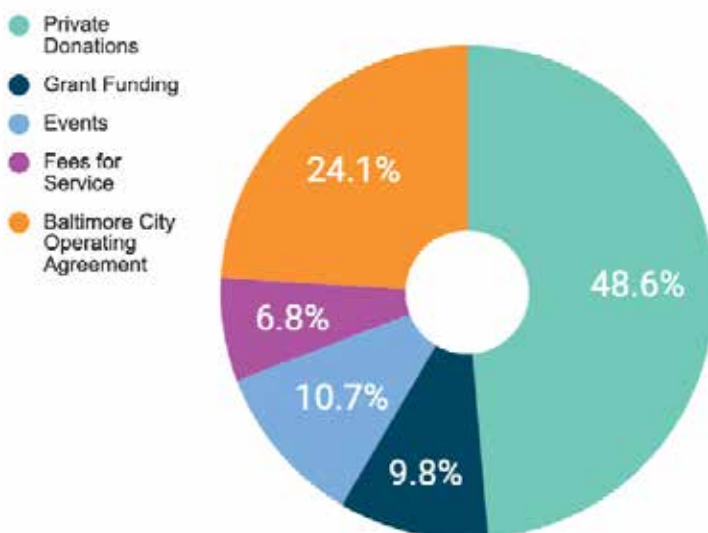
Additional In-Kind Revenue: \$555,814

Expenses

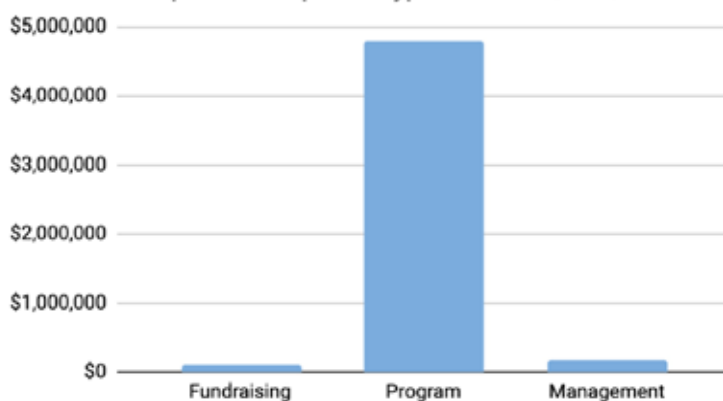
- Staff Salaries and Benefits: \$3,610,446
- Animal Care, Food and Supplies: \$215,267
- Animal Medical Expenses: \$893,497
- Fundraising and Management: \$105,061
- Restricted Expenses: \$65,357
- Administrative: \$172,766

Total Expenses: \$5,618,208

Revenue Sources FY 2019/2020



Revenue Compared to Expense Types: FY 2019/2020



Every Penny Counts

BARCS has focused the majority of our funding on animal care and programs that support saving lives. Since our inception, BARCS' fundraising expenses percentage has remained lower than the industry standard (<20%). This year, our fundraising expenses were just 2%, meaning that for every \$1 you give to BARCS, \$0.98 funds essential programs, supplies and staffing to save lives in our community.



For information on adoption, volunteering and donations, along with a complete listing of our community programs and services, please visit www.barcs.org.

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