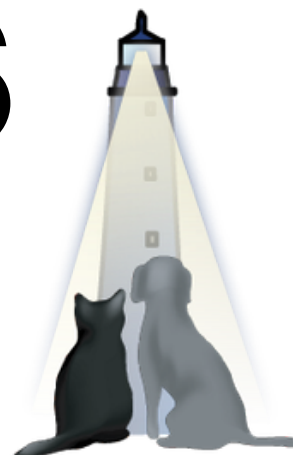




2025-2026 Impact Report



Animal Harbor
931-962-4472
www.animalharbor.org



a letter from your executive director

As I reflect on the past year at Animal Harbor, I am once again reminded that the strength of this organization comes from the compassion of the community that surrounds it. Every year brings new challenges in animal welfare, and 2025 was no exception.

Across our region, we continued to see the effects of housing instability, financial strain, and a culture that too often treats pets as temporary companions rather than lifelong family members. The need for safe refuge and compassionate support for animals — and the people who love them — has never been greater.

And yet, even in the face of these challenges, this year was also one of meaningful progress.

One of our most exciting milestones was the launch of Animal Harbor's very own transport van, a tool that allows us to expand lifesaving partnerships and move animals more efficiently to rescue partners and adoptive homes. Because of this investment, more animals were able to begin the next chapter of their lives — something that simply would not have been possible before.

Throughout the pages of this report, you will see the impact of that progress reflected in the animals we served, the programs we strengthened, and the community that continues to stand beside us.

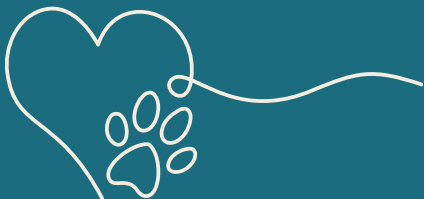
Animal Harbor has always been more than a shelter. It is a harbor in the truest sense of the word — a place of safety, healing, and new beginnings. From all of us at Animal Harbor, thank you for believing in this mission and for helping us create a brighter future for the animals of Franklin County.

With gratitude,

Emily Holland

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Executive Director.....	1
Nessie's Story.....	2
Adoption.....	3
George Jones's Story.....	4-5
Spay/Neuter.....	6
Paws and Pages.....	7
Educational Initiatives.....	8-9
The Numbers.....	10
Access to Care.....	11
Financials.....	12
Building a Brighter Future.....	13



Save lives. Promote animal welfare. Support
community.

Broken, Brave, and Finally Home

a rescue story that spanned states

Before she was Nessie, she was called Winder—a name given to her by the veterinarian after she was thrown from the window of a moving vehicle. Even her name carried the story of what someone had done to her.

At Animal Harbor, we gave her a new name and began helping her toward a new future.

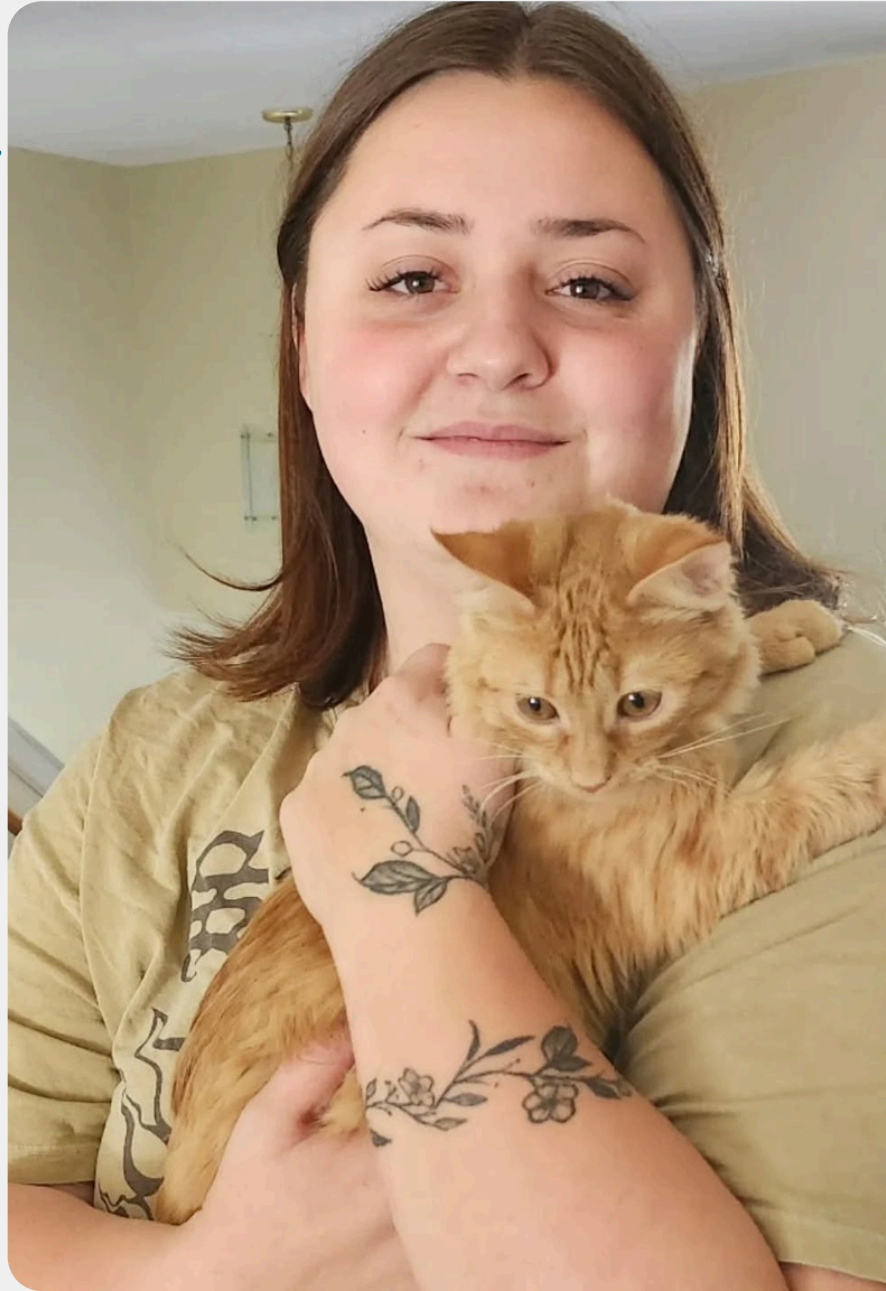
Nessie needed FHO surgery to treat her injured hip, followed by six weeks of recovery in our shelter. Her journey home would take time, patience, and dedicated care. We were there for each step, until she was medically cleared for her spay surgery and adoption.

As her story reached people across the country, a community rallied around this remarkable little polydactyl kitten, with her extra toes and so much life ahead of her. People shared her story, offered support, and applied to give her a loving home.

When Nessie was ready, a dedicated volunteer driver carried her all the way to West Virginia and into the arms of her new family. Today, she is a cherished companion, absolutely adored by the people who get to call her theirs.

We could not change what happened to Nessie.

But together, we helped change what the rest of her life could look like.



[Click here to watch Nessie's story unfold!](#)

This is the difference your support makes. It is the surgery an injured kitten needs, the weeks of care that help her heal, and the chance to find a family waiting on the other side of recovery.

Every
homeless
animal
deserves

a  home

111
local
adoptions

Adopters possess a rare superpower: the ability to see the heart of an animal before the world sees their worth. They choose adoption because they believe in second chances, in healing, and in the quiet magic of giving a home to a pet who's been waiting. Their choice is powerful, life-changing, and deeply beautiful.



After 547 days in and out of the shelter system, Arya finally found her forever. And the reason she made it? Claire — her adopter with the superpower of seeing the good, the brave, and the beautiful in a dog who just needed a chance. Some heroes wear capes. Others open their homes. [CLICK HERE TO SEE THE FULL STORY!](#)

George Jones:

the rescue who became the rescuer

When Otis first appeared on the screen, it was his eyes that stopped her. At the time, she had barely left her house in over a year.

After surviving a violent attack, losing her father just one week later, and grieving the loss of her beloved dog, life felt unbearably heavy. She wasn't looking for another dog. In fact, she was certain she could not go through that kind of heartbreak again.

But when she met the dog now known as Otis, something shifted. "He was strong but gentle with me — almost like he knew I needed him," she said. "He sniffed my face very intentionally and lingered, like he knew something I didn't."

"He made me want to be here."

Three days after bringing Otis home, he began alerting her husband that something was wrong — pacing back and forth between him and the bedroom where she was resting. Shortly after, she was rushed to the hospital for emergency medical treatment and remained there for a week. During that time, her husband brought one of her T-shirts home to Otis every day so he would know she was still coming back.

"All I could think about was him," she said. "I was terrified he would think I abandoned him." Somewhere in those long hospital days, something inside her began to change.

"The thoughts I was having... that life wasn't worth it... started to fade little by little," she shared. "I became scared to die instead of wishing for it."





4 adoption
events, 45
training
sessions, 720
walks, 1 new life

“The phrase
‘who
rescued
who’ may be
familiar, but
for families
like this one,
it could not
feel more
true.”

Today, Otis is thriving in his new home — learning tricks, preparing for training classes, and spending his nights curled firmly between his parents in bed. He greets people gently, watches over his family closely, and fills their home with joy, comfort, and laughter.

But for his adopter, Otis became something even greater.

“Two people have saved me from absolute horror in this world — my dad and my husband,” she said. “But Otis saved my life physically and emotionally. He made me want to be here.”

At Animal Harbor, we often talk about the animal lives saved through adoption. But stories like Otis's remind us that sometimes, the healing goes both ways.



Spay/Neuter: a Lifesaving Legacy

A Name. A Caretaker. A Brighter Future.

A better life for Kenny began the moment when someone deciding he mattered.

Someone gave him a name, filled his bowls, and made his well-being part of their everyday life. Through Animal Harbor's Trap-Neuter-Return program, that kindness became a lasting investment in his future.

He has someone who knows him, makes sure he has food and fresh water, and cares about what happens to him. That everyday kindness, paired with Animal Harbor's Trap-Neuter-Return program, is helping Kenny live a better life.

For community cats like Kenny, TNVR offers essential care while preventing future litters. It also gives the people looking out for them a way to turn compassion into lasting change.

Today, Kenny is enjoying life with a devoted caretaker watching over him. His story reminds us that meaningful impact can be quiet: a full bowl, a familiar place, and someone who keeps showing up.



*He isn't "just a feral cat." He's
Kenny.*

-Caretaker Carol

Your support makes this care possible, helping us protect the cats who are here today while preventing suffering for generations to come.

TNVR Impact

303

A single unspayed female cat and her offspring can produce up to 420,000 cats over seven years under ideal conditions. By sterilizing 303 cats, we prevented the birth of potentially hundreds of thousands of kittens over time

SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance) Impact

Access to vet care is the leading cause of overpopulation. By providing assistance to pet owners we are alleviating suffering and keeping pets in their homes.

322

Shelter Animals Altered

147

All unaltered and age appropriate animals that come into our shelter are altered before they are adopted.



Spay and neuter is one of the most compassionate ways we can change what comes next, easing the strain on shelters and protecting animals from suffering before it begins.

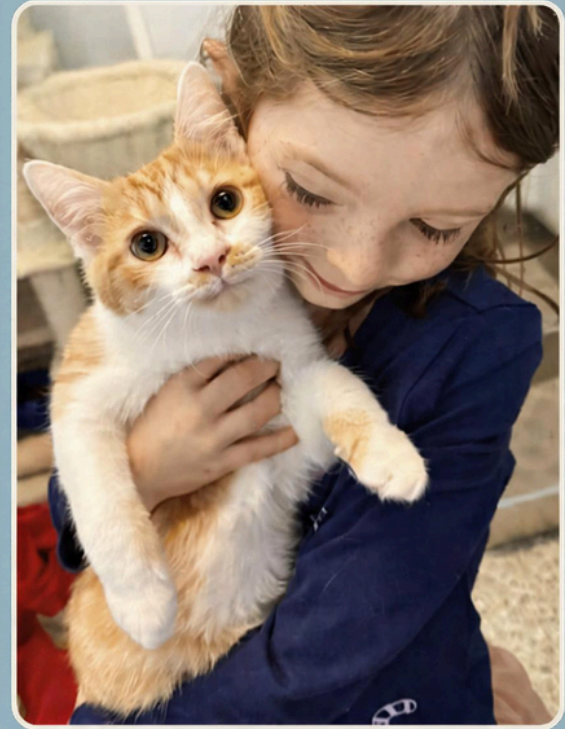
Creating Connection Through Paws and Pages

What started as a simple idea in 2025 quickly became one of the most heartwarming community programs at Animal Harbor.

Paws and Pages invited children, families, and animal lovers into the shelter to slow down, pick up a book, and spend time with cats and kittens waiting for homes. What we discovered was something much bigger than a reading event.

There was a special kind of magic in watching a child curl up with a nervous shelter cat and quietly read aloud while tiny purrs filled the room. For many of our animals, it offered gentle socialization, comfort, and positive human interaction. For our guests, it became a space to connect, breathe, and experience the healing presence animals naturally bring into our lives.

The community response exceeded anything we imagined. At one event alone, 85 guests filled the shelter to cuddle, read, and spend time with our feline residents — and by the end of the day, one lucky cat had already found a forever home.



As the program grew throughout the year, so did its impact. Families returned month after month. Children who once felt shy began confidently reading aloud to cats curled in their laps. Shelter animals who had been overlooked started receiving attention, affection, and in some cases, adoption interest.

In a world that often feels rushed and disconnected, Paws and Pages reminded us of something important: sometimes lifesaving work looks quiet. Sometimes it looks like a child turning the pages of a book while a shelter cat finally feels safe enough to rest beside them.



Paws and Pages became a beautiful example of what can happen when compassion, education, and connection come together under one roof.



This Is Where Compassion Starts

When Kathy Knies joined the board of Animal Harbor in 2024, she brought with her more than 30 years of experience as a teacher and elementary school counselor—and a deep understanding of something simple, yet powerful:

Children are naturally drawn to animals.

“Just about any child you ask will be able to tell you something they love about animals,” Kathy shares. “I saw an opportunity to build upon that special connection.”

Together, Kathy and Emily Holland began shaping a humane education program rooted not just in teaching—but in transformation.

At its heart, this program is about building empathy.

By reaching children early—with messages of kindness, compassion, and respect—Animal Harbor is helping shape a future generation that understands how to care for animals and, just as importantly, for one another.

“You can see their eyes light up as soon as they see our dogs,” Kathy says.

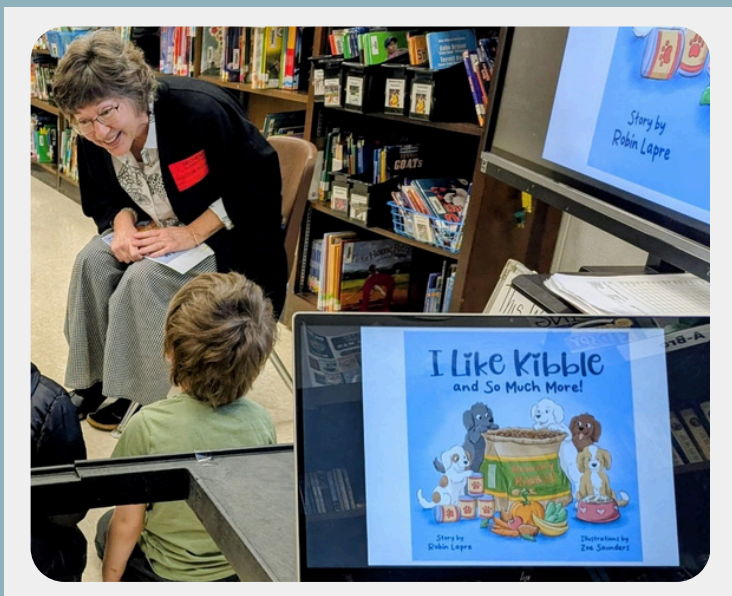
One by one, each child steps forward, practicing what they’ve learned. Volunteers offer gentle guidance, creating a space that feels safe, supportive, and full of possibility—for both the children and the animals.

And then there are the children who hesitate.

You can see it—the want to connect, held back by fear.

With encouragement, they begin to say the steps out loud. Slowly, carefully, they move forward.

Knowledge begins to replace fear.



*As the program continues to grow, so does its vision. A future where humane education is part of every elementary school. Because when children are given the opportunity to lead with empathy, they don't just learn it—
They carry it forward.*

The impact doesn't end when the session does.

It follows children beyond the classroom—into their homes, their neighborhoods, their everyday lives.

Animal Harbor volunteers have seen it firsthand. While out walking their own dogs, a child approaches and asks:
"May I pet your dog?"

*When asked where they learned that, the answer is:
"At school... from Animal Harbor."*

"These full-circle moments show us that these kids really do care," Kathy says. "They're taking these skills with them and using them in their everyday lives. That's really powerful."

By teaching children how to treat animals with care and respect, Animal Harbor is helping to:

- reduce cruelty and neglect
- promote responsible pet care
- build stronger, safer relationships between people and animals

It's a ripple effect—one that begins with a single interaction and extends across an entire community.

For Kathy, one lesson rises above the rest:

"By advocating for humane education in our schools, we can help raise a generation that leads with compassion."

Participating Groups

Having our local schools and other organizations get engaged has been a huge accomplishment. In 2026, we hope to build this program to expand the lesson series and include even more students.

10

505 Children Empowered

Classroom Program
Animal Ambassadors 23



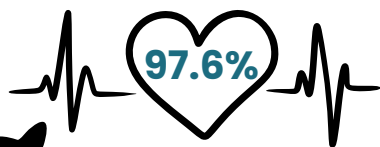
"It's never too early to start teaching kindness."

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS 2025

SHELTER INTAKE



LIVE SAVE RATE



RENDERED AID

(COMMUNITY PET CARE, TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS, PET PANTRY, OTHER)



LOCAL ADOPTIONS

111



↑ +8%

TRANSPORT (ADOPTED THROUGH PARTNERSHIP)

181



TNVR
303

↑ +165%

SNAP
322



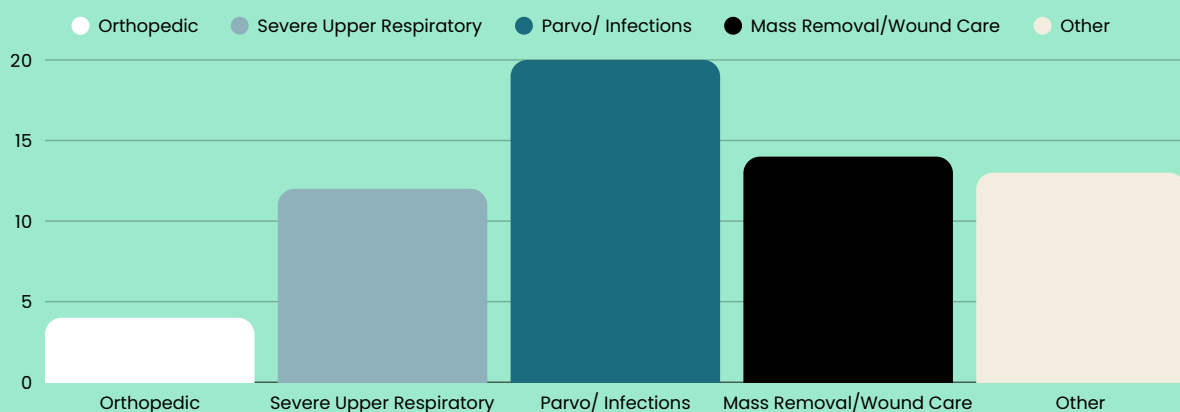
↑ +23%

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

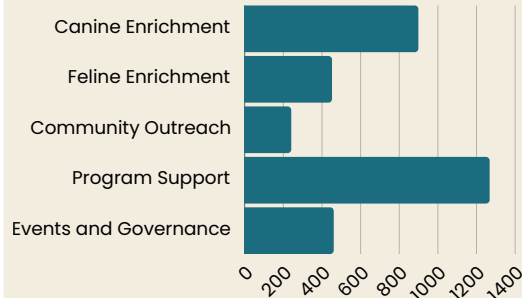
505
STUDENTS



SPECIALTY CARE PROVIDED: 85 LIVES SAVED

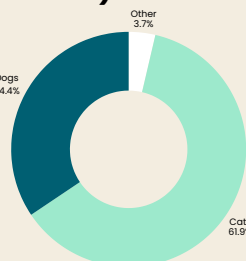


VOLUNTEER HOURS (6,696 HOURS ACROSS 72 VOLUNTEERS)



FOSTER HOURS (7,020 HOURS ACROSS 16 FOSTERS)

4% OTHER
62% CATS
34% DOGS



TRANSPORT MILES TRAVELED



Building Powerful Programming

Providing more Access to Care

When an animal faces a medical emergency, a loving home may already be waiting. What's missing is access to affordable care.

For families stretched by everyday expenses, an unexpected veterinary bill can put lifesaving treatment beyond reach. The same barrier faces someone who finds an injured stray and is willing to provide a home, but cannot afford the immediate medical needs.

Animal Harbor's Crisis Care program grew from these moments: an animal needing help and a person beside them determined to do the right thing. Separate from medical care for our shelter animals, this community program helps pets stay with their families and found animals go directly into homes with the people committed to keeping them.

"If we are going to ask our community to step up for animals, then we need to be willing to stand beside them when they do."

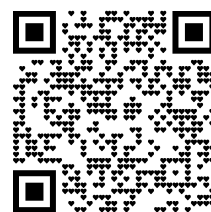
—Emily Holland, Executive Director

Through Crisis Care, more than 20 owned pets have already received support, with investments ranging from \$500–\$1,000 per case, alongside assistance for found animals whose rescuers were willing to give them a home. That support offers hope when people feel they have nowhere left to turn.

Care continues beyond the emergency. Follow-up veterinary care and spay or neuter help protect each animal's long-term health, prevent unplanned litters, and support a lasting future in a loving home.

"Maybe part of the evolution of animal sheltering is recognizing that sometimes the best way to help an animal is to make sure they never need the shelter in the first place."

**WE DON'T KNOW WHO WILL NEED
US NEXT. WITH YOU BESIDE US, WE
ARE WORKING TO BE READY TO
SAY YES.**



To learn more about this life-saving campaign scan this QR code:

Financial Outlook

Service Fees/Misc.
3.8%

Life Preservers
26.3%

SUPPORT

\$627,157

Major Gifts
40.7%

General Donations
2.8%

Fundraising
18.2%

Grants
5.6%

**Revenue surplus
is capital
campaign monies
secured for the
Canine
Expansion
Campaign.*

Administrative
and Fundraising
7.5%

EXPENSES

\$484,310

Programs
92.5%



For every dollar donated,
ninety three cents directly
supports animal care and
programs.

We value transparency

\$568,000

Donations/Major
Gifts

\$0

State/Federal
Government, ASPCA,
Humane Society
Support

\$35,000

Restricted
Grants

\$24,000

Service Fees



Support our life saving mission with a one-time or monthly gift:

Building a Brighter Future

The campaign to save more dogs has begun.

Every day, Animal Harbor is faced with difficult decisions—not because we don't want to help, but because our current facility limits how many dogs we can safely save.

Today, approximately 85% of dogs entering our care arrive with a communicable illness. Without proper isolation space, our ability to accept new dogs and partner with local animal control is limited.

That's why we launched the an ambitious project: a dedicated canine isolation and healthy holding facility designed to expand capacity, improve disease control, and save more lives.

We envision a community where every dog has a chance—a chance to heal, a chance to be loved, and a chance to thrive. Through compassion, partnership, and innovation, we are building a future where more lives are saved and fewer dogs fall through the cracks.

As of October 2026, supporters like you have helped secure \$200,000 toward our \$550,000 goal.

When completed, this project will:

- 🐾 Increase canine capacity by 50–60%
- 🐾 Create a dedicated medical isolation facility
- 🐾 Allow us to help more dogs before they face euthanasia
- 🐾 Improve housing, enrichment, and decrease length of stay
- 🐾 Save hundreds more dogs each year

WITH \$350,000 STILL NEEDED, WE INVITE YOU TO HELP BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR DOGS IN OUR COMMUNITY.



To learn more about this life-saving campaign scan this QR code: