

2024 Impact Report



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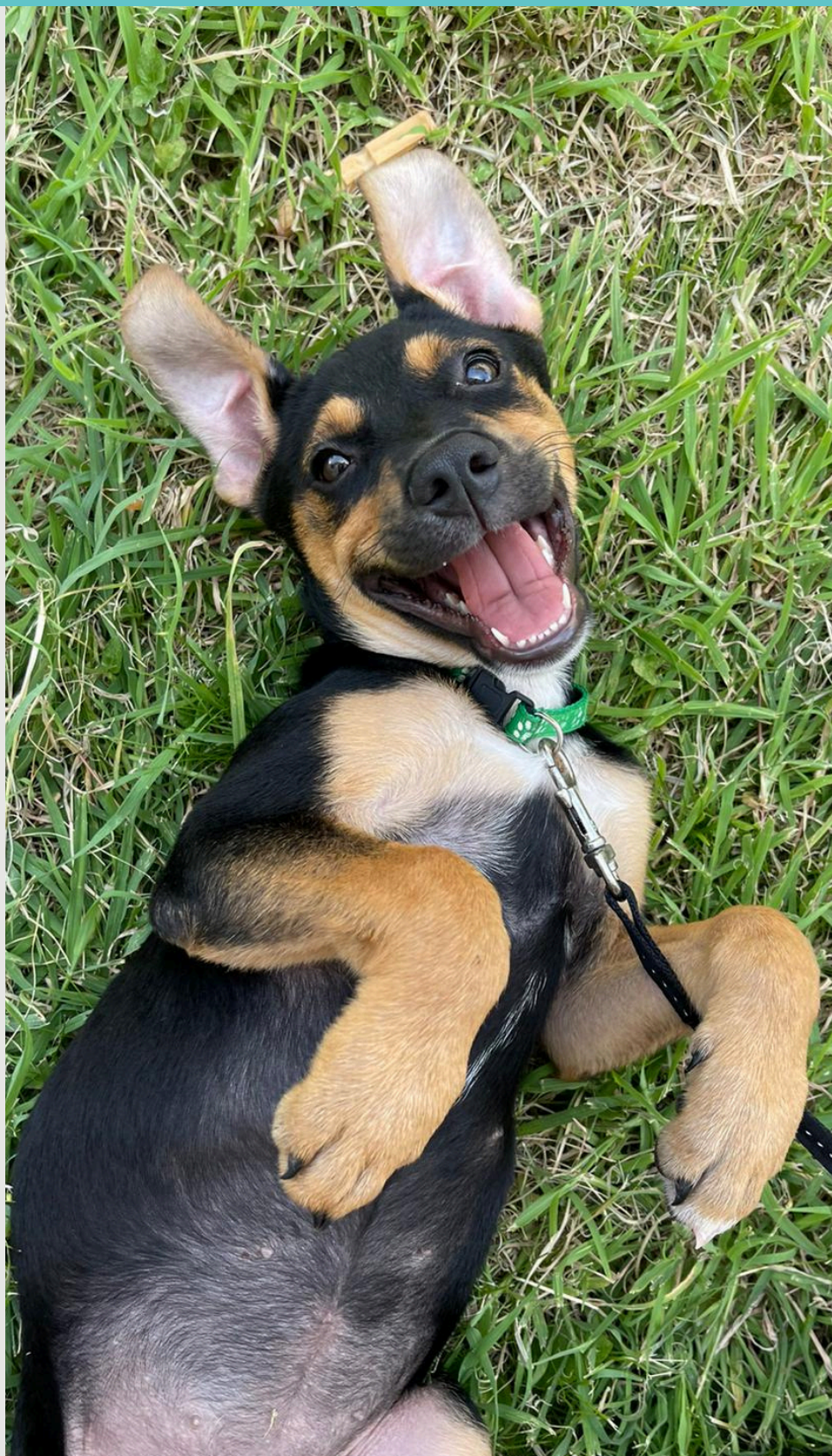
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2024 Impact

478

Animals rescued

363

Animals rehomed

269

Animals flew to the U.S. & Canada
with travel buddies

63

Animals
traveled on
4 airlifts

\$269,211

USD raised

10 Years In Rescue

6,000

Animals rescued

654

Animals airlifted on 20 airlifts

2,398

Animals flew to the U.S. & Canada
with travel buddies

100+

Foster Network
(spanning 3 countries)

40+

Rescue network in Antigua

Mission



Founder's Letter

Rising to the Challenge

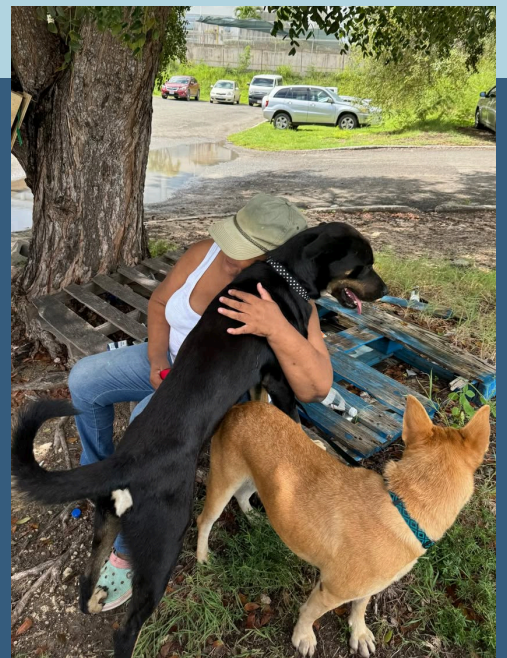
The year started with a bang but everything changed by the middle of 2024.

We jumped into 2024 with happiness, hope, and enthusiasm. At the Sanctuary, we saw the installation of electricity, street lights, wifi, security cameras, solar lights, a new refrigerator and washing machine, and hundreds of new plants and trees. All of the old pens were cemented and roofed. We introduced new projects, like installing "watering holes" and working with the Attorney General on a programme to prevent animal abuse.

By the middle of 2024, the CDC's new ruling prohibiting dogs under six months of age from entering the U.S. negatively impacted our organization, halting our travel buddy programme and diminishing our revenue stream. We managed to send out a record number of pups in July (52) before the ban took effect on Aug 1st.

In 2024, we flew 332 animals overseas to the U.S. and Canada. An additional eight went to the U.K.

We rescued a total of 478 animals and rehomed a total of 363 dogs and cats. We were delighted to connect with new rescue partners like *Vintage Rescue* in Rhode Island, who rehomed five of our paraplegic dogs, and *Halfway There*, a rescue in North Carolina, who also rehomed five. Wisconsin is also a new route for us, and we rehomed eight through *Our Pack*.



With my girls, Cindy and Banana before the last airlift of 2024

In 2024, we raised \$269,211.19 USD, which went directly towards transportation, support and upkeep of the Sanctuary dogs and dogs within our foster network. We currently have about 178 dogs under our umbrella in Antigua alone. Our monthly average costs comprise of almost \$15,000 on vet care, another \$11,000 on food, and \$16,000 on transportation (ECD). Another huge chunk of the budget goes to construction and maintenance costs. Less than 5% of our budget goes towards staff salaries.



“Carnival dog”

A dying dog moving unnoticed amongst a bunch of carnival revelers, a perfect juxtaposition for life in Antigua

If I were to look back on 2024 at any particular incident that resonated with everyone, it would be “carnival dog.” A dying dog moving unnoticed amongst a bunch of carnival revelers. It is a perfect juxtaposition for life in Antigua. Incidentally, Carnival Dog died within a month of his rescue.

DACOA’s rescue team continues to act as an ambulance service for dogs injured/diseased and dying from starvation or neglect. We struggle to continue to pick up pups and kittens in need.

We remain firmly committed to building and developing a sanctuary that serves the community's needs. Still, we ask our government to help our animals by giving them the protection they need and deserve, enforcing our laws, fining and imprisoning offenders, and making sure they never own another animal.

To our community, keep pressuring the government. There are far too many abused animals on this island, all in plain sight and with no help in sight. This cannot continue to happen, not on our watch. Just because cruelty happens all over the world does not validate it happening here in such great numbers.

Finally, we are thrilled to celebrate 10 years in “rescue”. We are humbled by the impact we have had so far (6,000 lives saved). We hope the next 10 years will bring about radical changes. Thank you for taking this journey with us, for your continued support, donations, service, and kind words of encouragement. We love you all.

Joy Farrell
Founder & Executive Director

Fundraising

Our two biggest fundraisers of the year are our Foodie Raffle and the DACOA Calendar. As we celebrated our 10th anniversary in rescue, we wanted to do something special for each fundraiser.

We made the Foodie Raffle bigger than ever, with 60 participants and more than 2,400 raffle tickets printed and sold. Some winners donated their tickets so we could resell them on our auction page. In total, we were able to raise approximately \$51,000 ECD.

Our 2025 calendar also broke records, generating \$17,000 in sponsorship dollars and \$33,000 in sales (ECD).



2024 Foodie Raffle Crew



In 2025, we will introduce Puppy Yoga at the Sanctuary four times per week, spearheaded by Victoria LeFebre. Instructors will guide participants through a yoga class surrounded by DACOA puppies that are available for adoption. The series will begin February 12th at \$30 ECD per person.

Bryden's will be repeating several Bingo night events, and we will be introducing a new fundraising event: DACOA Open Gardens. We have selected 16 of Antigua's most beautiful gardens which will be open to the public during the entire month of November. There will be mini-events taking place in some of the selected gardens, and refreshments and plants will also be on sale in selected gardens. Tickets will be available in booklet form at Paperclips and DACOA ticket agents.

Receivables

Dogs & Cats of Antigua-US, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (EIN: 83-1739136) based in Massachusetts. This designation allows us to better support and fund our essential work in Antigua & Barbuda, W.I. As a privately operated organization, we depend entirely on the generosity of individual donors, institutions, and corporate partners to carry out our mission. We receive no financial assistance from the government of Antigua & Barbuda.

While the Board of Directors and Advisory Board are entirely volunteer-run, our Sanctuary staff are compensated. We are committed to maximizing the impact of every dollar: less than 5% of funding is allocated to staff salaries and administrative expenses, with the vast majority directed toward our programs. Our most significant expenditures include veterinary care and the transportation of animals to overseas homes and rescue partners.

In 2024, we raised \$269,211 USD, or \$727,556 ECD. Most of these funds come from fundraising initiatives and individual supporters' donations. A little over 20% is generated from adoption and transportation fees paid by rescue partners; the remainder of our budget relies on our grant partners' generosity.

Monthly Donors

We would like to say a big "thank you" to all our monthly donors. We now have 85, almost a third of our goal. We are still looking to reach 300 monthly donors contributing \$20 USD a month. This would cover a good deal of our monthly operational costs.

Adoptions

We received \$55,357 USD in adoption and transportation (rescue) fees. \$42,668 was generated via U.S. adoptions and \$12,689 was generated via Canadian adoptions.



Grants

Network for Good
Andrew Hite Charitable Fund
Maharashtra Foundation
Select Equity Group Foundation
Donovan and Mary Beth Lane Family Fund
within the Waupaca Area Community Foundation

Flew The Coop/GEM
John and Wendy Neu Foundation
CTV Charitable Foundation
JP Morgan Charitable Giving Fund
Merck Company Foundation
Head Family Charitable Foundation

Sanctuary



Sanctuary Projects

01

Our Community Makes Things Happen

Big thanks to Dinah Whittier, Mershon Beach, and Francis Averre for sponsoring three new pens with larger dog houses. Thanks also to Dinah Whittier and Mary Beth Lane for 10 large new dog houses.



02

New Pens and Clinic Upgrades

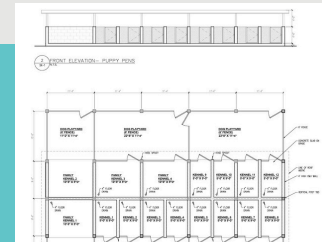
Work never ends at the Sanctuary, and throughout the year, we invested in critical capital improvements to build new pens, reinforce and repair existing infrastructure, and added concrete pads to provide a more comfortable surface during the wet season. We also re-roofed all the pens to provide better shade and adjusted drainage. Additionally, we continued to outfit our Clinic, which will eventually host community spay/neuter events.



03

Isolation Unit

Our next major capital project will be the development of our isolation and hurricane unit. This building will serve a dual purpose: providing secure quarantine kenneling for animals new to the Sanctuary and serving as a hurricane-proof facility that can house our entire population in an emergency. We were not able to raise the funds to finish the entire building but were able to begin half of the unit (16 pens). Construction of the new pens will be completed by February. We are continually fundraising to make the rest of this critical infrastructure a reality.



Small Sanctuary Updates

With a big impact



The very talented Ronald Silencieux continues to add to our "Legends" gallery paintings of Sanctuary dogs, past and present.



We continue to invest in shade trees and plantings throughout the Sanctuary, creating an enjoyable destination for everyone.



We received \$1,500 USD from the AUA students at Save A Paw. Their kind support allowed us to reinforce existing and put up new fencing at the Sanctuary, to allow some of the dogs to have a good run without concerns for their safety. Big thank you and gratitude to the students.



Community



The Team

Board of Directors

Joy Farrell

Founder & Executive Director

Mary Harris

Director, Treasurer, & Travel Coordination

Halima Zachariah

Director & Secretary

Nancy Hadeed

Director

Internal Relations

Danielle Jacobsen

Director

Sanctuary & Rescue

Nicole Jardim

Director

Partnerships

Casey Johnson

Director

International Relations & Marketing

Mary Beth Lane

Director

U.S. Development & Partnerships

Advisors & Volunteers

Chris Kelly, Webmaster

Giovanna Pari, Overseas Adoptions & Transports

Jo Sandeman-Allen, U.K. Advisor

Julia Dixon, U.S. Financial Advisor

Len Butticci, Honorary Board Member

Lindsey Malouin, U.S. Advisor

Sharon Gerson Panek, U.S. Advisor

Alex McNamara

Aleksa Evele

Alexandra Bogdanovitch

Belinda Murray-Mepham

Caroline McDavid

Dinah Whittier

Jamila Travers

Jennifer Scrocca

Lisa Boccia

Mackenzie Hodge

Reeva Armstrong

Victoria Lefebre

Wendy Blakkie

Roving Ambassadors

John Dodwell

Monique St. Jean

Lisa Keating

Veterinary Team

Dr. Fiona Francis

Dr. Diandra Payne

Dr. Ashley Kelsick

Dr. Chere Kellman

Dr. Joycelyn Francis

Dr. Ibrahim Allaz

Dr. Tubal Edwards
Chief Government Vet

The Team **cont.**

Antiguan Fosters

Alexandra Bogdanovich
Andrea Carmichael
Antigua Rainforest Zipline Tours
Allison Burnett
Bianca Vella
Carrie Crotty
Carolyn Pearce
Cheryll Rogers
Daneesha Pelle Codrington
Danielle Jacobsen
Dinah Roparine
Frances Averre
Grace Kennedy
Jamie Arman
Jasmin Alleyne
Jennifer Warren
Joanne Lighthizer
Halima Zachariah
Kate Sheppard

Labs & Mack
Lilian Baank
Lotte Højsager
Michael Tyson
Mackenzie Hodge
Mallory McKing
Martha Piggots
Mary Harris
Nancy Hadeed
Pandora Dance
Samantha Gibson
Serena Guinta
Sr. Annita
Sherri MacManus
Simone Rastelli
Susie Adderson
Vicky Godier
Victoria LeFebre

Rescuers

AnnaMaria Mitchell
Daniel Choy
Danielle Jacobsen
David Horsley
Denise Stammers-Doherty
Dinah Whittier
Frances Averre
Gemma Handy
Giuliana Ferrari
Jamila Travers
Julia Carranci
Kate Sheppard
Reeva Armstrong
Warren Franker

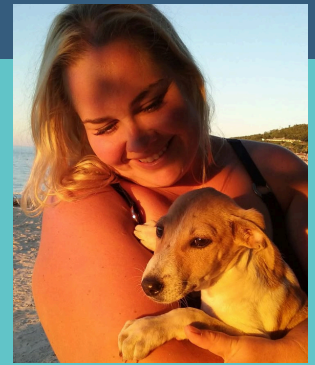


The Team **cont.**

U.S. Fosters

Allison Cuzzola
Amanda Popplewell Pena
Betsy Zahn
Brittany Christopherson
Caroline McDavid
Caryn Witt
Cecelia Leto
Christa O'Connell
David and Deanna Mortimer
Dianna Mosley
Emma Franks
Erica Ford
Gianna Bustamante
Giorgia Glassford
Heather Robinson
Jeanine Glassford
Jennifer Delavega
Jessica Calicchio
Jessica Vespoli
Joyce Miller
Karen Rudnickas
Kylie Desjardins
Leah Arsenault
Leanna Desheplo
Liz Stockton

Lynsie Slachetka
Marcy Edinger
Mary Beth Francisco
Melissa Brian
Melissa Ortman Rotella
Michelle Estrada
Myshel Guillory
Nicole Jardim
Olga Nunez
Renee Hodge
Renne Skuraton
Russel and Joann Biancone
Samantha Cheirif and Eric Gendal
Sandra Serriello-d'Alfonso
Sarah Reardon
Seraphin Nicholson
Stacey Duncan
Sue Carcia
Sue Sutter
Tammy Molinelli
Toby and Lisa Baker
Tracie Titus
Trevor Reynolds



The Team **cont.**

Sanctuary Team

Deborah Merchant

Vet Care Manager

Michelle Tomlinson

Kennel Manager

Evans Warrington

Kennel Assistant

David Blackman

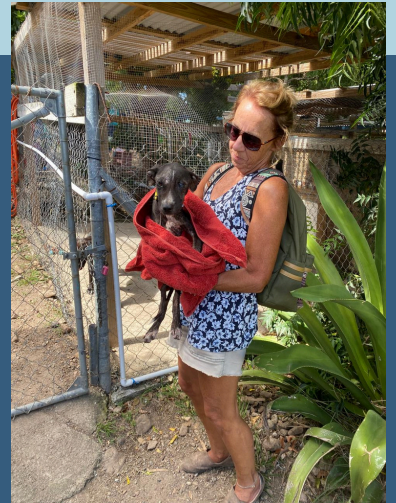
Kennel Assistant

Kevin "Oreo" Vassell

Kennel Assistant

Shayne Anthony

Landscape Manager



Travel Buddies

Our Travel Buddy Programme has been vital to finding loving homes in the U.S. and Canada for our younger puppies and cats. While they're still small enough, these animals can travel in-cabin with passengers on international flights. Adult dogs can also fly with travel buddies in cargo to Canadian destinations.

The programme frees up space at our Sanctuary and in the homes of our Antiguan fosters, enabling us to take in more animals. Additionally, it has become a wonderful way for tourists to connect with DACOA, often leading to adoptions, new volunteers, or lifelong supporters. Many of our travel buddies describe the experience of flying with a puppy as the highlight of their trip and take pride in knowing they played a role in saving a life.



Unfortunately, our Travel Buddy Programme faced a significant challenge this year when the CDC implemented new regulations, prohibiting puppies under six months of age from traveling to the U.S. In response, we worked tirelessly to send as many puppies as possible before the ruling took effect, achieving a record-breaking milestone of 52 puppies flying out in July.

Although this new regulation has been a major setback, we are committed to adapting. We're working to build new partnerships with Canadian rescues, increase airlifts, and focus on sending small dogs and more cats to the U.S. Together, with the help of our incredible community, we remain determined to continue to save as many lives as possible.

Celebrating Heroes

For the past three years, DACOA has recognized individuals who have demonstrated exemplary actions and awarded them our Heroes award. These kind and exceptional deeds from outstanding individuals should not go unnoticed, especially on an island where dogs and cats are dispensable and their lives have little or no value.

We are honored to acknowledge and celebrate Dinah Whittier and Warren Franker as our 2024 Heroes of the Year.



Warren Franker

Warren Franker is a kind and gentle man, his kindness to animals is a natural extension of his character and it knows no boundaries. He personally owns 12 dogs, all of them rescues and one of them a paraplegic requiring extra care. Despite that he has time to feed and monitor countless stray dogs and has saved the lives of countless others. He has transported numerous sick dogs to the vet. He also fundraises for the organization and is currently spearheading the building of new and upgraded pens at the Sanctuary. Warren we salute you, we love and appreciate you.



Dinah Whittier

Dinah Whittier is a recent transplant to Antigua. She hails from Trinidad and when traveling to Antigua, she ensured that all 12 of her dogs came with her. She has been instrumental in many rescues, fosters and even an adoption. She has also sponsored many upgrades on sanctuary projects. Dinah's pureness and kindness knows no boundaries. Each week, in addition to her dogs, Dinah cooks for 85 dogs at the Sanctuary so that each dog can experience a home cooked meal every week. Dinah, we are so grateful for you and we salute you.

Advocacy



Advocacy

Our midnight vigil took place on Friday, March 22nd and was a bit of a bust since it was too poorly attended to make much of a statement. We also pushed for a programme to end animal abuse, which was well received but went no further than the Attorney General's desk. We continue to interact with the government at varying levels. Until the government and authorities start to enforce the law, offenders will continue to abuse with impunity.



Airlifts



Airlifts

In 2024, we organized four airlifts to the U.S. in partnership with Flew the Coop, a nonprofit initiative founded by Christopher Harding to transport dogs from the Caribbean to their new lives overseas. With support from Flew the Coop's parent organization, Global Empowerment Mission, DACOA was able to fund airlifts for 63 animals.



People
ENTERTAINMENT | CRIME | HUMAN INTEREST | LIFESTYLE | ROYALS | STYLEWATCH | SHOPPING
HUMAN INTEREST > ANIMALS > ANIMAL SHELTERS & RESCUES

29 Formerly 'Traumatized' Rescue Dogs Get a 'Second Life' Thanks to Charity Flight (Exclusive)

Over two dozen dogs saved from the streets of Antigua by Dogs & Cats of Antigua arrived in the U.S. on May 7 with help from Flew the Coop

By Kelli Bender | Published on May 14, 2024 02:41PM EDT

Rescue dogs on charity flight from Antigua to the U.S. (left) and Ms. Morgan the dog with a volunteer in Miami. (PHOTO: FLEW THE COOP)

- Dogs & Cats of Antigua and Flew the Coop partnered together on a May 7 rescue flight that transported 29 dogs from Antigua to the U.S.
- The 29 dogs on the flight were rescue pets saved from the streets of Antigua by Dogs & Cats of Antigua
- Many of the dogs on the rescue flight are now available for adoption at animal rescues in the U.S.

People Magazine featured an article about our May 7th airlift, in which 29 dogs flew to Miami thanks to Flew the Coop. The article highlighted the crisis of abused and stray animals on island.

Airlifts are a massive undertaking and a literal lifeline for our animals as they allow us to send out multiple dogs at once, thus freeing up precious space for new intakes. As we look towards 2025, airlifts will be the fundamental way of getting our dogs to the U.S. due to the CDC regulations on puppies under six months travelling in cabin.

With support from



Airlift photos on pg 22 and 23 courtesy of Flew the Coop.

Acknowledgements

Rescue Partners

Flew the Coop, Global
Our Pack Rescue, U.S.
Coffee and Paws Rescue, U.S.
Closter Animal Welfare Society, U.S.
Smitten Kitten Cat Cafe, U.S.
Animal Haven, U.S.
Pet Recess, U.S.
K9 Camp & Resort, U.S.
Vintage Pet Rescue, U.S.
North Shore Animal League, U.S.
Halfway There Rescue, U.S.
Pup Starz, U.S.
Island Dog Rescue, U.S.
ARF Hamptons, U.S.
Southampton Animal Shelter, U.S.
Scallywags Animal Rescue, U.S.
The Susie Project, U.S.
Save the Satos, U.S.
Miami Animal Rescue, U.S.
Reba's Rescue, U.S.
Westchester SPCA, U.S.
Big Dog Ranch Rescue, U.S.
Dream Doggie Day Care, U.S.
Blondes R Us, Canada
Furever Friends, Canada
Back Street Paws, Canada
Humane Society of Durham Region, Canada
Paws Across the Water, Canada
Niagara Dog Rescue, Canada
Fetch and Release, Canada
Sea Paws, Canada
Etobicoke Humane Society, Canada
Golden Rescue, Canada



Thank you for your partnership in providing these animals well-deserved second chances.

Your Impact



[Donate now](#)

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[Be a travel buddy](#)

[Foster](#)

Purchase from our [Chewy](#) and

[Amazon](#) Wishlists

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

[Join our Facebook group](#)

[Follow us on Instagram](#)

For additional opportunities,
including sponsorships,
please email us at
dogsandcatsantigua@gmail.com.

Thank You.

Thank you for being a part of the miracles we've made together this year. This is where your dollars go — saving lives, giving second chances, and making dreams come true for animals in need.

