



2018 ANNUAL REPORT





A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIRAH HOROWITZ

1,993 ANIMALS RESCUED
BY LDAR IN 2018



Dear friends...

Lucky Dog Animal Rescue kicked off 2018 -- our 9th year -- with an incredible achievement: Flying with Southwest Airlines on a donated 737 to San Juan, Puerto Rico, bringing 14,400 lbs of supplies to the hurricane-ravaged island and returning to DC with 62 animals on board. This trip capped almost 4 months of to help our rescue partners recover from Hurricane Maria.

Lucky Dog continued to step up in response to natural disasters throughout the year. In October, we avoided a near-catastrophe when our transport van broke down on its way to DC -- just 90 minutes after departing Florence, South Carolina with more than 50 animals on board. With the animals stranded in 92 degree weather and no air conditioning, we put out a call for help. And, thirty strangers came to our rescue, including an animal transport company that drove the dogs and cats the rest of the way to freedom. And, out of the path of Hurricane Florence.

2018 also marked a record high for Lucky Dog in terms of the number of lives saved. We rescued 1,993 animals from high kill shelters and other difficult situations, bringing them to the DC area to find them forever homes. Not a single one of those lives would have been saved without our generous supporters. Adopters, volunteers and donors who make it possible for us to give dogs and cats sitting in kill shelters across the rural south a second chance. Give dogs and

cats on islands with limited adoptive pools, like Puerto Rico and Kauai, Hawaii, an opportunity to find a forever home.

What is truly amazing about Lucky Dog is how much of the work we do is accomplished by volunteers. Because we do not have a facility of our own, all of our dogs and cats live with volunteer foster parents. Our volunteer adoption coordinators and screeners work with adoptive families to make loving, forever matches between people and pets. Our volunteer drivers and handlers bring dogs and cats to adoption events, vet appointments, and other important events. Volunteers do data entry, coordinate events, give tours of the national mall to bring in funds through AirBNB, and the list goes on. We are nothing without our volunteers!

We are incredibly proud of all we accomplished in 2018. Of all the ways our team stepped up time and again. We know you will be too!

Mirah A. Horowitz
Executive Director



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ON THE COVER

Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, Chester, waiting for his daily walk with one of our many volunteers.

Photo credits: Lucky Dog Animal Rescue
Layout/Design: Momme Design

WHO WE ARE

Lucky Dog Animal Rescue

Lucky Dog Animal Rescue is a volunteer-powered, foster-based nonprofit operating in the DC Metro Area and dedicated to rescuing homeless, neglected, and abandoned animals from certain euthanasia and finding them loving forever homes. We educate the community and all pet parents on responsible pet parenting, including the importance of spay/neuter, obedience training, and good nutrition.



2018 AT A GLANCE

2018 was a big year for Lucky Dog, and we hit the ground running. In the first few weeks of the year, we partnered with Southwest Airlines to bring 14,4000 lbs of supplies to Puerto Rico and to return to DC with 62 dogs and cats following the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. Lucky Dog kept up the momentum throughout the year, aiding dogs and cats impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael while still honoring our commitments to regular shelter partners, raising enough funds to purchase a new van to transport our animals safely to DC, and more!



Highlights from the year include:

- Partnered with Southwest Airlines on a nationally televised rescue mission bringing supplies to Puerto Rico and returning with 62 animals displaced by Hurricane Maria.
- Selected as the 2018 GISH (Greatest International Scavenger Hunt) Charity Recipient. We were able to save over 600 Lucky Dogs and Cats with the proceeds from the scavenger hunt.
- Partnered with Leland Vittert, Fox News anchor, during a on-air rescue of Florence and Chinquapin – two dogs left stranded in rising flood waters following Hurricane Florence. The rescue was televised nationally and helped fund our hurricane efforts.
- Won the Top Team Fundraising Award in Best Friend's Animal Society's Strut Your Mutt Competition as well as 1st and 3rd for Highest Individual Fundraisers, the Best Team Spirit, and Highest Youth Fundraiser.
- Awarded the "Shining World Hero Award" and a \$30,000 grant from Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association in honor of our community efforts to save animals impacted by Hurricane Florence.
- Won 2nd place in the Washington DC Do More 24, raising over \$58,000 in 24 hours to save more than 240 lives.
- Received the Platinum Guidestar Seal of Transparency – the highest level offered by Guidestar.
- Participated in the World Bank Community Connections Campaign as well as the Combined Federal Campaign.
- Accepted into the 2018-2019 Catalogue for Philanthropy – Greater Washington's only locally-focused guide to giving and volunteering.
- Visited our shelter partners in Puerto Rico and Florence County, SC; sponsored 5 kennels in the Puerto Rico Alliance for Companion Animals Inc.'s Pet Village
- Featured in over 80 media stories and appearances throughout the DC DMV and beyond.
- Conducted 149 transports and rescued over 1,993 animals in 2019 – 685 of which were puppies and 257 of which were kittens – from as far away as Puerto Rico, Thailand, Kosovo, South Korea, Nepal, Qatar, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama and Hawaii, and as close as Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.
- Hosted our 4th community spay day in Florence, SC, providing free spay and neuter to 44 community pets in Florence, S.C.
- Welcomed 219 fosters to the Lucky Dog family.

OUR PROGRAMS

Adoption Program

Lucky Dog's primary purpose is to find qualified adoptive homes the homeless and abandoned dogs and cats we rescue. We train adoption coordinators to carefully screen adoptive applicants to be sure that our dogs do not end up back in shelters – or worse. The adoption process includes the completion of an application, an in-depth interview with an adoption coordinator, a landlord check (if applicable), a vet check to ensure all current and previous pets were spayed/neutered and well cared for (if applicable), and a home visit. We also provide support to adopters after adoption takes place.



Adoption Matchmaking

Volunteer Adoption Coordinators work with individual adopters to find the right animal for their family, lifestyle and preferences. This provides a more successful outcome for the dog. This innovative program was pioneered by Lucky Dog.

Foster Program

Because we do not have a kennel, Lucky Dog is dependent on volunteers in the DC metro area to house and care for our dogs and cats. These foster homes are the backbone of our organization. Fosters are screened by a specially trained foster screening team using a similar process to the adopter screening process. Fosters are required to attend a 2-hour training class and two Sunday adoption events each month.



18 SHELTER PARTNERS | 1,993 ANIMALS RESCUED



Kid's Club and Ambassador's Club

Lucky Dog's Kid's Club offers opportunities for children and teens to become involved in Lucky Dog's programs and learn about animal nutrition, health and safety. The Kid's Club meets monthly with special guests and adoptable dogs. The Ambassador's Club is for high school students and provides meaningful volunteer opportunities for that age group, including internships.



PIPER & JO'S STORY

by Colleen Bernhard

I moved to Washington, DC to attend graduate school and in between studying - spent every day dreaming about the day I could graduate, move to a dog friendly building, and get a dog. Instead of planning a trip to the beach or a big celebration right after graduation - I spent my summer days feverishly googling, yelping, and asking around - where can I get an amazing dog to call my own? Google suggested Lucky Dog. To the adoption event I went.

It was love at first rescue with Piper - a southern Virginia stray - who I met at a hot Sunday adoption event and said to my roommate (based on literally nothing) yep she is the one. I was already pre-approved to adopt through the rescue but just needed one more conversation to prove I was the right fit.

I remember exactly where I was sitting on my lunch break talking to the adoption coordinator and exactly where I was a few days later when I realized I had plans the day I was supposed to pick her up. I called my mom and she said "Ohh you fall in love with every dog you see. You'll find another one!" I very dramatically cried "NO she's the one!" and changed my plans and adopted her that weekend.

Well - I quickly found out after taking her home ... that dogs are HARD. Since Piper's adoption in 2014, we've been through hours of training, innumerable vet visits (her back right leg is now made of metal), trips around the east coast and a few career changes (for me, not her - though I ask her daily when she's going to get a job). A year after bringing her home I began volunteering as a Handler - quickly moving on to Adoption Coordinator, Team Lead and eventually Foster.

I met my first foster dog on a rescue trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico with the Lucky Dog team. She was found in a hoarding situation with 217 other dogs and was terrified of humans. However - after a quick dog park evaluation, Lucky Dog took a chance on her and I'm so grateful they did. I immediately offered to foster her, even though Piper explicitly asked to remain an only child, and I fell in love. Her name was Baby Moonlight (don't worry I changed it to Jo) and I realized after just one week that I simply could not let her go. I cried as I pulled away from dropping her at her second adoption event - I just couldn't imagine anyone else understanding her like Piper and I did (well maybe just me). I picked her up that evening from a friend and she, normally a terrified dog pancaked to the ground avoiding eye contact with all humans, FLEW at me as Piper and I walked in the door. That was it.

She took one more month to wag her tail and two more months to actually play with Piper. Over two years later - she is still a work in progress. But she, more than anything, truly opened my eyes to just how far a loving forever home can go for an otherwise unwanted and overlooked animal with a rough past.

A few months after coming back from Puerto Rico in 2017, I moved from full-time Museum Professional to full-time Lucky Dog employee and haven't looked back. I have genuinely learned more about myself, rescue, and being part of an active community in the last few years than I could have imagined in many years of schooling. Rescue is an unbelievable emotional and physical rollercoaster - with insurmountable lows and unbelievably rewarding highs. It truly is a journey and I'm honored to experience it with Piper & Jo by my side.



2018 EVENTS

We celebrated our 9th year of saving lives with great success! We began the year with our annual Wags & Wine Extravaganza and celebrated all year long. Lucky Dog hosted multiple large events and campaigns while partnered with area and national businesses and individuals to support our most successful year yet!

2018 Major Events

Wags & Wine Extravaganza
Casino Night Gala

2018 Campaign Events

Do More 24
Strut Your Mutt
Giving Tuesday



2018 Community Events

Bingo
Shop Kendra Scott
Chima HH
Mission Bar HH
Airbnb Experiences
Pups on the Patio HH |
Shop Alex & Ani
Santa Photos
Trick or Treating
Birthdays
Weddings

Bar/Bat Mitzvah's
Happy Hours
Wine Event
Shake Shack Restaurant Opening
Apparel Sales
Microsoft Social Impact
Social Media Contests
Exercise Classes
Pasta Classes
Pup Parties and Conventions



6 COUNTRIES
OUR RESCUES COME FROM
UNITED STATES, QATAR
NAPAL, SOUTH KOREA
THAILAND, KOSOVO

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Together we save lives

Each year more than one thousand volunteers keep Lucky Dog moving forward and saving lives. Whether handling an animal at an adoption event, entering data, answering voicemails, updating our website, driving animals to adoption events, helping with transports, conducting home visits, assisting with special events, or answering the myriad of calls to action we have each week, every volunteer is essential. Lucky Dog would not survive without them. Would not save almost 2,000 animals each year without them.

We are foster based

The number of dogs and cats we save every year is directly dependent on our Foster Team. Not only do fosters welcome our dogs and cats into their homes, but they play critical roles at adoption events and as ambassadors on behalf of our animals. It takes a lot of people to keep our foster team running! Foster Screeners onboard new fosters. Overnight Fosters provide care for the night a dog arrives off transport. Puppy and Kitten Fosters provide specialized care to the most vulnerable of our animals. And, Full Time fosters give our dogs and cats a place to live until they are adopted. Each part of the foster team plays a critical role in Lucky Dog's life-saving work. We know that fostering is not always easy, and we know how much of our foster team puts into their work. We can't thank them enough!



Adoption events are where it's at

Each week Lucky Dog hosts multiple adoption events across the DMV to provide adopters with opportunities to meet multiple dogs and cats. Each animal is assigned a volunteer at the event. Volunteer Liaisons make sure everyone is trained and has a great experience. Event Support Volunteers assist adopters with the adoption process. Puppy Protectors keep our puppies safe. And, all of these moving parts are coordinated by extremely talented and hard working Event Coordinators. Thee hard work and dedication of our adoption event volunteers make it possible for hundreds of dogs and cats to be adopted at our adoption events each year. They make Lucky Dog function!

Adoption coordinators advocate for our animals

Lucky Dog's Adoption Coordinators are our animals' strongest advocates, from posting the dogs and cats online, to screening potential adopters, to completing adoption paperwork and giving support once our animals find their forever homes. The amount of time and effort they put into every part of the adoption process is truly amazing. We would never be able to place our Lucky Dogs and Cats in forever homes without their dedication and hard work. We are lucky to have our Adoption Coordinators as part of our Lucky Dog family.

Administrative volunteer: Less sexy but so important

The behind the scenes work keeping Lucky Dog running can be overwhelming for our small but mighty staff. But our administrative volunteers make it possible! From data entry to adoption folder making to helping check voicemails to doing outreach as part of our development team, our administrative volunteers take on roles that don't bring them in contact with the animals. Don't give them the immediate feel good moment of a puppy's kiss or a kitten's purr. But, they keep the organization running and make it possible for us to save lives. We are exceptionally grateful.

To our shelter and rescue partners

Our amazing rescue and shelter partners do all they can for the animals in their care. They work hard to ensure each animal that transports to Lucky Dog is as healthy as possible. The tireless efforts of our partners at Florence County Environmental Service, Gloucester Matthews Humane Society, PR Animals, Paws of Hertford County, Martinsville Henry County SPCA, and the Kauai Humane Society make it possible for us to rescue so many wonderful animals. We are also incredibly grateful for all that our Lucky Dog - Team South Carolina does for the dogs and cats of Florence County. We appreciate everything that they do to ensure those who enter their shelters become Lucky Dogs and Cats!





BOCHY'S STORY

by Karen Skanderson

I've been fostering for more than 10 years, and in that time I've "failed" twice. First, my Alli Gator chose me. Then, after eight years of helping me foster shy, "2nd dog required" dogs, Alli chose a brother, my Lucky Dog Bochy. I first met Bochy (FKA Wesley) at our partner shelter in South Carolina. He was shy and tentative, and something told me that he needed my help, so I immediately offered to foster him. A month later he made his way to DC and I took him in. He was shy, scared of everything, and nervous about being anywhere in the house except his crate. He didn't know what toys were, was afraid to get close to any furniture, and wouldn't take food from my hand. But there was something special about him. Alli liked him right away, which was highly unusual for her with any dog. And when I saw Bochy leaning up against her in the car, invading all the personal space she demanded from both dogs and humans, I knew he wasn't going anywhere. Alli chose her brother and I signed the adoption contract.

Bochy followed his sister everywhere, gradually became comfortable in the house, and with a lot of patience and training, he came to understand that people are good, the couch is for lounging on, and toys can be played with. He learned how to interact with other dogs, though he prefers human company, and loves exploring the neighborhood and greeting new people. His evolution to happy, confident dog has been a long one. It took him a year to readily play with a toy indoors, and two before he learned he can tug back on a toy for a fun game, instead of dropping it as soon as he saw a human. In year three he de-stuffed his first toy and I beamed with pride - my boy had officially learned how to dog. Now he happily raids the toy bin, asks humans to play with him, and lets me know when he wants a treat, a walk, or even a ride because he loves being in the car. He's happiest when he's sunbathing on the lawn, or lounging on the patio of the local pub stealing the occasional french fry. He's a goofy little guy who can never get enough ear scratches and loves to meet new people. He makes me smile every day and his impromptu stops to roll in the grass or bask in the sun remind me daily to slow down, live in the moment and enjoy life like he does. No matter how bad his life was before Lucky Dog, he seems to have moved on and found a perpetual state of happiness.

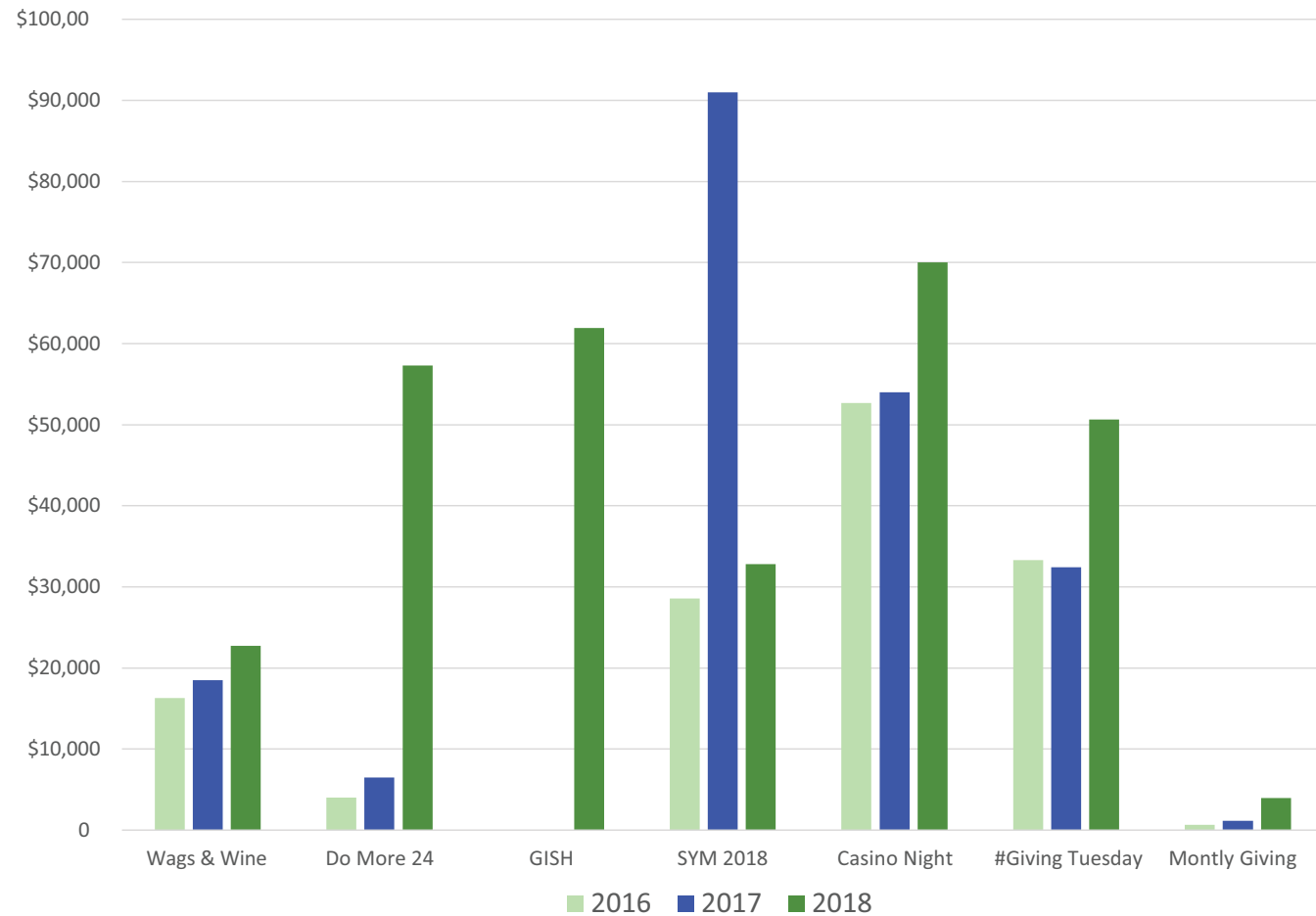
When I foster a shy dog and see their turnaround in the short time they're with me, it's incredibly rewarding. But being able to watch Bochy's transformation over the past three years truly warms my soul.



2018 FINANCIALS

2018 was an exciting and successful year for Lucky Dog Animal Rescue as we increased lives saved and increased funds raised. We established new community partners and programs, grew our existing events and programs; subsequently, we had the ability to save more lives. This success was only possible with the immense support of our Lucky Dog community. With a special thank you to our supporters, donors, partners and all of our volunteers, you made 2018 our most successful year in raising life-saving funds yet.

Lucky Dog Animal Rescue Major Events and Campaigns 2016-2018



Lucky Dog Animal Rescue 2018 Development Overview

2018 Development Goal is \$530,000
(23% higher than our 2016 development actual value)

2018 Major Event Net Revenue Results:

Wags & Wine Extravaganza - \$22,709
Casino Night Gala - \$70,013

2018 Campaign Net Revenue Results:

Do More 24 - \$53,484
Strut Your Mutt - \$32,789* Gross Revenue
Giving Tuesday - \$50,650

2018 New Event Sponsors:

(14) Wags/ Casino Night - \$30,000

Individual Donors:

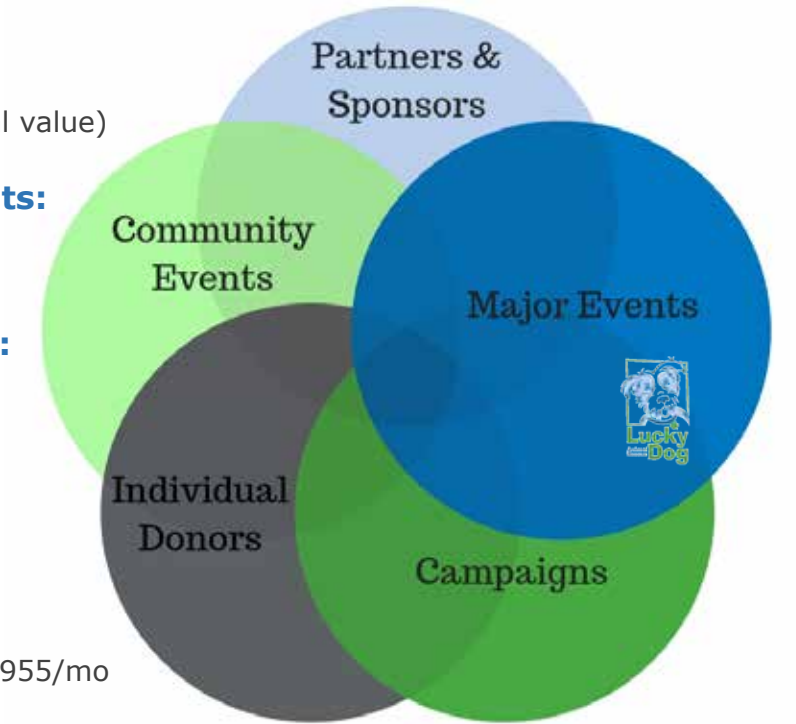
Monthly Giving: 2017: \$1,134/mo - 2018: \$3,955/mo

2018 Community Partners:

Greatest International Scavenger Hunt - \$61,904
Audi of American - \$10,000
McEneaney Associates - \$1,500 SM & Title Casino Night Sponsor
Catalog for Philanthropy of the Greater Washington Region

2018 Community Events: Over \$31,000 and counting....

Bingo | Shop Kendra Scott | Chima HH | Mission Bar HH | Airbnb Experiences | Pups on the Patio HH | Shop Alex & Ani | Santa Photos | Trick or Treating | Birthdays | Weddings | Bar/ Bat Mitzvah's | Happy Hours | Wine Event | Shake Shack Restaurant Opening | Apparel Sales | Microsoft Social Impact | Social Media Contests | Exercise Classes | Pasta Classes | Pup Parties and Conventions



2018 DONORS

The nearly 2,000 lives saved in 2018 was made possible through our many generous donors. Monthly donors provide a significant source of life-saving financial resource that provides secured revenue each and every month supporting every facet of our rescues. Every donation makes a great impact, our donors that make increased donations throughout the year provides life-saving funds and opportunities for future growth. We are grateful to all of our donors – saving nearly 2,000 lives, providing necessary medical would not have been possible without the support of each of our 2018 donors. 100% of donations received directly goes to the animal's rescue, transport, and the medical care of our Lucky Dogs and Cats.

\$250+ Donors

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\$1,000+ Donors

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Colliers International
Doggie Walker
Insurance Consultancy LLC
VMware & Dell EMC
Gelman Rosenberg & Freedman
Kriser's Natural Pet
The World Bank Community
Connections Campaign
The Greatest International Scavenger Hunt
Petco Foundation
Maddie's Fund
PetSmart Charities
Best Friend's Animal Society

TEAM SOUTH CAROLINA SAVED NEARLY 1,200 LUCKY DOGS AND CATS IN 2018

by Stephanie Moore



Long crazy days. Long sleepless nights. A scramble and a dash to save as many animals as we can. When I'm asked to tell you what leading Lucky Dog-Team South Carolina means to me, this is what comes to mind. For decades in Florence County, the "Effingham Pound" was a death sentence for animals, and everyone in the county knew it. With intake numbers over 8000 animals and less than 5 adoptions a year, staff saw euthanasia as the only option.



Fast forward to 2014. I'd been volunteering with Lucky dog through a different, better resourced private nonprofit. However, I wanted to help the dogs and cats that no one else was even trying to save. Lucky Dog gave me a chance to do something no one ever dreamed would be possible. Lucky Dog gave me a ticket into the "pound."

Made it possible for us to save lives; an open invitation to make a change. I never imagined it would become what it is today. Intake numbers are down, and, for the first time in decades, their save rate is higher than their euthanasia rate for dogs.

This is Lucky Dog. This is the difference Lucky Dog has made in our community.

It's more than just numbers. We have worked hard to raise the standard of care that animals receive in the facility. We have changed shelter protocols and gotten them to vaccinate upon arrival. We paid to install stainless steel in kennels that replaced germ-harboring wood and placed splash guards in the drains to decrease the spread of infectious disease.

Being part of Lucky Dog Team SC means determination. It means teamwork. It means change. I'm honored and blessed to be a part of this change and this wonderful group of people. We work hard, but the lives we are saving in return are worth every bit of it. And we always know that Team DC has our back!



963
CANINE  / FELINE 
SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES





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