

FELINE ADVOCATES

OF LEON COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT **2024**

Board of Directors

President-Founder
Michelle Hartsfield

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Sara Jones

Director
Melissa Blake

Director
Cailee Krambeck

Director
Lindsey Viramontes

Director
Gisele Poitras

Director
Gloria Alvarez

Director
Katherine Bullough

Honorary Director-Founder
Susie Caplowe

Honorary Director
Gail Sloane



Mission

“Dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming animals in need while educating and empowering our community to advocate for the welfare of companion and community cats.”

OUR TEAM

I can't believe we just finished our fifth year of operations! What a roller coaster with never a dull turn!

I want to take the opportunity to thank our incredible community—our board members, volunteers, employees, and supporters. Your dedication and compassion make everything we do possible.

When I first began this journey five years ago, I honestly didn't know what to expect from our organization; the growth, the camaraderie, the capacity to save lives. It's been a challenging and exhausting path filled with long days, emotional ups and downs, and moments that challenged my endurance. Yet, every life saved, every purr of a grateful cat, reminds me why this work is so important and worth every ounce of effort.

Together, we have created more than just a rescue. We've built a community grounded in kindness, hope, and love. To everyone who has stood with us, whether through volunteering, donating, or simply spreading awareness, THANK YOU! Your support fuels this mission and changes lives.

I am grateful to be part of this journey with all of you, and I look forward to continuing this vital work side by side in the years to come.

Michelle Hartsfield
Founder and President



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

INTAKES 202

In 2024, we welcomed 202 cats into our care. Each one was a story waiting for a better chapter. While this number is slightly lower than previous years, the impact remains immeasurable. Many of the cats we accepted this year faced urgent medical needs, requiring significant time, attention, and resources to stabilize and heal.

Our intakes came from a wide range of circumstances: abandoned cats found in unsafe outdoor conditions, animals left behind in shelter systems with limited options, and beloved pets whose families could no longer care for them. Regardless of where they came from, every cat was met with compassion and commitment the moment they arrived.

The intake process is where their transformation begins. It's where fear turns into trust, illness into recovery, and uncertainty into a path toward a forever home. We remain deeply committed to saying "yes" to the cats who need us most, and to ensuring their second chance is filled with hope, healing, and love.



THE FALC CATS

Intake Source
Stray - 148
Rescue/Shelter Transfer - 29
Owner Surrender - 25

ADOPTIONS

169

This year, 176 cats found their forever homes, that's 176 lives transformed by love, care, and second chances. Each adoption is more than a number; it's a story of resilience and hope. From once-scared strays to surrendered seniors, these cats overcame uncertain pasts to find warmth, companionship, and the safety of a home.

Behind every adoption is a family saying yes! Yes to patience, yes to healing, and yes to the joy that only a rescue cat can bring. We're endlessly grateful to our adopters who opened their hearts and homes, and to our team and fosters who helped prepare each cat for their next chapter.

Adoption is where our mission comes full circle. It's the reason we do what we do, and in 2024, we celebrated 176 beautiful new beginnings.



THE FALC CATS

ADOPTIONS

158

(151 FALC, 7 Resident Rescues)

Seven Years of Cats, Community, and Connection
In August, Fat Cat Café celebrated its 7th year of operation, and what a journey it has been! What began as a dream to connect people and cats in a fun, relaxing environment has become a beloved Tallahassee staple.

Over the years, we've transformed, adapted, and grown, but at the heart of everything, our mission has remained the same: to give cats a second chance and offer people a peaceful place to connect, unwind, and feel at home. This year especially, we saw just how much the café means to our community. Whether people stopped by for a midday mental health break, brought a friend for a cozy weekend visit, or came in hoping to meet their future feline companion, every visit helped support our lifesaving work.

We're proud to be more than just a café with cats, we're a place of comfort, healing, and joy. And after seven amazing years, we're just getting started



FAT CAT CAFE

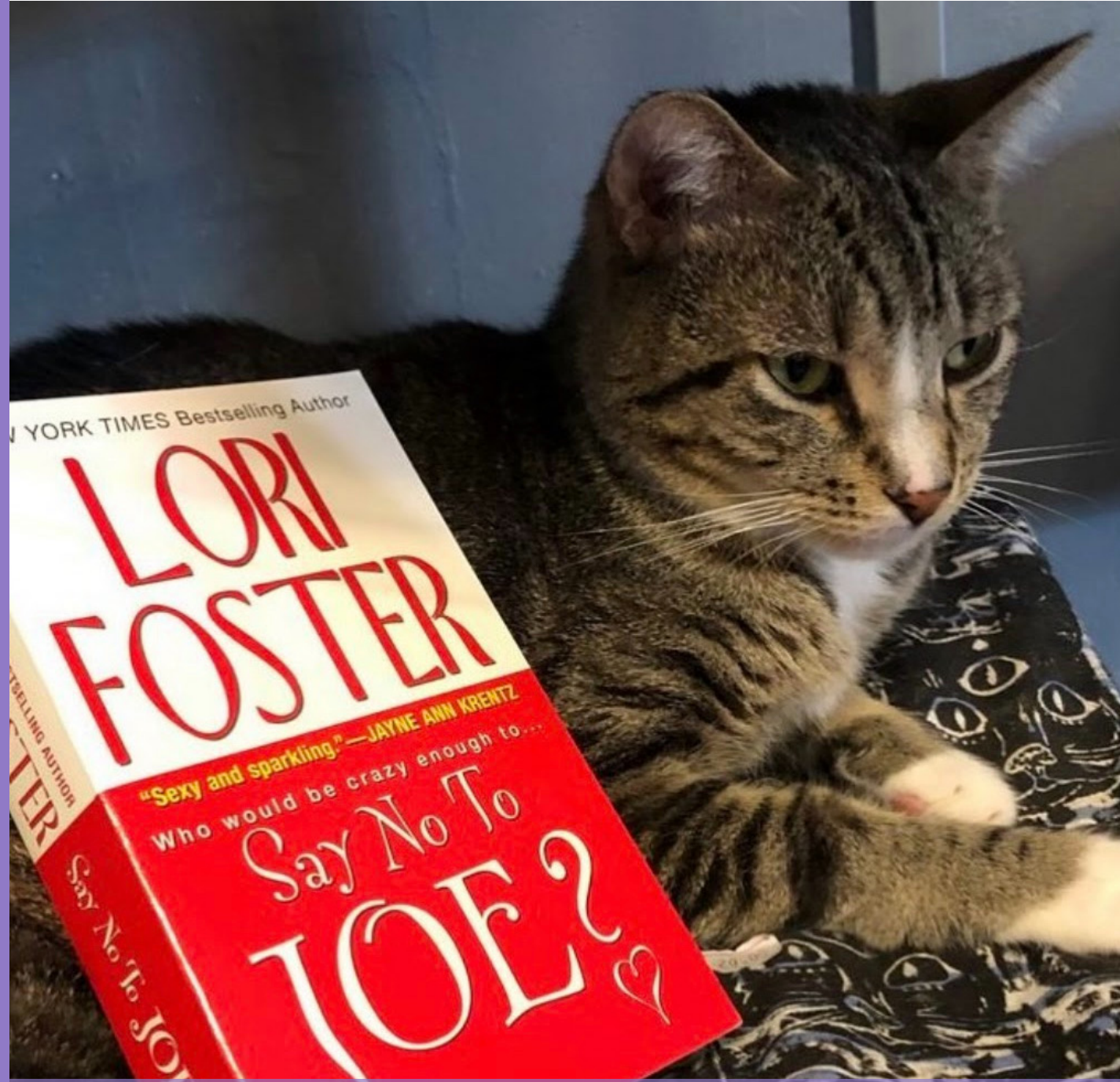
ADOPTIONS

18

2024: A Year of Resilience and Gratitude. This year marked our 4th anniversary, and while we had plenty to celebrate, we also faced some unexpected challenges, most notably, the May 2024 tornadoes that tore through Railroad Square and much of Tallahassee. It was a terrifying and humbling moment, but somehow, our building was spared.

In the aftermath, we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from our community. People reached out from all corners asking if the cats were safe, if we needed help, or how they could support us. It was a powerful reminder that our mission isn't just about rescue, it's about connection, compassion, and community.

Thanks to that unwavering support, we continued to serve as a sanctuary for the cats who need us most. At our cozy little bookstore, now entering its 5th year, we remain dedicated to giving adult and senior cats, including many with special medical needs, a second chance. These are the cats who are too often overlooked, and yet they've found love and new beginnings here.



FAT CAT BOOKS

TOTAL

\$172,329

(represents our 2023-2024 Fiscal Year)

FAT CAT CAFE

\$53,865

(2024)

FAT CAT BOOKS

\$48,575

(2024)

GRANTS

\$48,500

(See Grants Next Page)

(2024)

FUNDRAISING

\$15,000

(2024)

2024 FUNDRAISERS

FOR CAT'S SAKE ART AUCTION

OCT-\$7000.00

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

FEB-\$300.00

BOOK BAG SALE

QUARTERLY-\$3700.00

GARAGE SALE

\$2000.00

FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS

PERIODICALLY-\$2,000+



REVENUE

Grants \$48,500

It was a successful year for grants. When we announced that we received a grant to bring a veterinarian on staff, we were beyond proud! What an asset to have to help us on a regular basis. Orphan Kitten Club accepted our grant submission for Vets and Falc Unite in the amount of \$17,000 and we were able to bring on Dr. Natalie Davidson to advise on cases, check animals as needed and update vaccines with ease. It was truly a blessing.

In addition to our new program grant, we were blessed to be awarded, for the first time, Florida Animal Friends funding in the amount of \$15,000 for spays and neuters. We immediately hit the ground running helping people spay and neuter their pets and working hard to help community cats through TNR.

OKC Mighty Cat Grants we received were:

- 1/25/24 - Poppy - ocular damage partial tissue removal surgery and hospitalization- 3500
- 2/2/24 C3P0 - FIP treatment - 3500
- 7/1/24 Sea Monkey - eye enucleation - 2000
- 7/1/24 Spider Monkey - eye enucleation - 2000
- 10/30/24 Fenway - eye enucleation - 1500
- 10/30/24 Comiskey - ocular damage - 1500
- 11/6/24 Wrigley - eye enucleation - 1500
- 11/13/24 Homer - eye enucleation- 1500
- 11/18/24 Shortstop - eye enucleations - 1500



GRANTS

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

We give our utmost thanks to those who walk with us in our journey!

"Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer." – Gen. Jimmy Doolittle



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

OUR FOSTERS

At the heart of our rescue are the foster families who open their homes, and hearts, to cats in need. These compassionate individuals provide comfort, care, and stability, often during a cat's most vulnerable moments. Whether it's bottle-feeding newborn kittens, nursing sick or injured cats back to health, or simply offering a warm place to land, our fosters make it possible for us to keep saving lives. Their dedication allows us to say "yes" to the next cat in crisis, knowing they'll have a place to go. Every adoption begins with a foster who said, "I can help."



OUR VOLUNTEERS

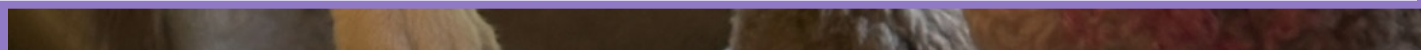
Our volunteers are the unsung heroes who show up, again and again, to do whatever is needed. They're the hands behind our events, the drivers behind our transport runs, and the reason our spaces stay clean, organized, and welcoming. From laundry duty to data entry, photography to fundraising, our volunteers bring a wide variety of skills and an even wider range of compassion. We simply could not operate without their commitment, creativity, and willingness to pitch in, no matter the task.

OUR EMPLOYEES

Thanks to the support of our community, we're able to employ a small but mighty team to keep our adoption centers running smoothly. These dedicated staff members are the daily face of our rescue, ensuring each visitor feels welcome and each cat is well cared for. They handle the behind-the-scenes logistics and the emotional labor of working in animal rescue with grace and grit. Their work allows our organization to remain consistent, professional, and deeply rooted in our mission. They make our facilities not just functional, but full of heart.



OUR VILLAGE



Community Cats

Spayed or Neutered
548

TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return)

In 2024, we continued our commitment to humane population control through our Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) program, helping 548 free-roaming cats receive vital medical care and sterilization before being returned to their outdoor homes. Every cat TNVR'd represents a step toward long-term, sustainable change preventing countless litters, reducing suffering, and easing pressure on local shelters.

Building on the foundation laid in previous years, we focused on areas with ongoing need, returning to familiar communities in Tallahassee to support ongoing efforts. Our team provided traps, guidance, transportation, and medical coverage to community members who were eager to be part of the solution.

TNVR is a quiet but powerful force in rescue, a behind-the-scenes effort that saves lives before they begin. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, community partners, and donors, hundreds of cats now live healthier lives in safer outdoor colonies. We're proud of the progress we've made and remain committed to expanding access to TNR resources wherever they're needed most.



TRAP NEUTER *Vaccinate* RETURN

Feline Advocates of Leon County
falccats@gmail.com

Fat Cat Cafe
fatcatcafetally@gmail.com

Fat Cat Books
fatcatbooksttally@gmail.com

