



cat haven
GREATER BATON ROUGE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR STORY

Cat Haven has saved over 18,700 cats and kittens

Cat Haven, one of the premier cat-only rescue groups in the nation, has been giving cats and kittens a new lease on life since 1999. From humble beginnings as a foster-based organization to now having its beloved Cat Haven Adoption Center, the organization has grown to become a beacon of hope for feline friends in need.

For the first nine years, Cat Haven operated as a foster-based organization, relying on the dedication of volunteers to transport adoptable cats and kittens to adoption events held on weekends at places such as PetSmart and Petco. In 2007, after raising enough funds, Cat Haven purchased a building to use as a shelter and adoption center. The facility, located on Harrells Ferry Road near Sherwood Forest Boulevard, currently houses 75 adoptable cats and kittens.

Since 1999, Cat Haven has saved the lives of over 18,700 cats and kittens. With its Adoption Center open seven days a week, the organization averages 80-100 adoptions per month. In addition to rescuing cats and kittens from the community at large, Cat Haven also pulls cats and kittens from area public shelters, helping Baton Rouge become a no-kill community.

Cat Haven has made such a big impact on the community but we want to do even more! Cat Haven is making plans to relocate and double the space of our current shelter so we can help more cats and kittens!



FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Holly Carey

Throughout the years, Cat Haven has continued to provide food, shelter, medical care, and a loving environment full of enrichment and hope for the homeless cats and kittens in our community. Cat Haven has been recognized by Best Friends Animal Society for being a no-kill shelter. While the standard for “no-kill” status is a 90% save rate for cats, Cat Haven’s save rate is 98.2%. We could not have accomplished this without the kindness and generosity of our supporters.

Currently, we can comfortably shelter up to 75 cats in our building. While we are very fortunate to have the space to do so, there are many more homeless and abandoned cats and kittens that are looking for rescue. Every day, we see or hear of cats in dire need that we cannot step up to help. It is heartbreaking to have to have to turn them away because we just do not have the space to provide the proper square footage per cat necessary to maintain a healthy and stress-free environment in our current facility.

In 2023 alone, we admitted 961 cats into our program. What if we were able to double that amount by moving into a larger facility? What if Cat Haven could provide space for FIV positive cats and FeLV positive cats? What if we were able to open a Cat Cafe’ and have a “cage-free” facility where environmental enrichment could be optimized? The possibilities are endless.

As we navigate through 2024, we hope that you will spread the word to your friends and families that Cat Haven will continue to grow and thrive in order to help as many cats in our community as we possibly can. Your continued support means so much to us and helps us to get that much closer to a “no-kill community”. After all, we are all “in it to win it”.



“The possibilities are endless.”



VET HEROES

Helping Us Help Cats

Rechelle Brooks, DVM, originally dreamed of being a child psychologist. It so happened that her love for animals and wanting to care for them played a role in her career goals and made a change of plans. Dr. Brooks began her journey as a kennel worker at a general practice and then landed a student worker position at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. She was quickly noticed for her dedication and hard work and climbed the ladder into the small animal ICU. There she gained critical knowledge that would follow her into her role as a veterinarian.

She then received her undergraduate degree in Animal Science with a minor in Zoology from LSU and her Doctorate from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

Cat Haven is very fortunate to have Dr. Brooks as part of our team. She started volunteering in early 2023 and enjoys “giving back” to her community. She loves cats and has 6 of her own as well as 2 dogs. In her free time, Dr. Brooks enjoys spending time with her 2 children, Claire (16) and Cole (9), and her husband, Ed.

Several other veterinarians continue to support Cat Haven by volunteering at our Adoption Center. Dr. Meena Braden, Dr. Lisa Ciolino, Dr. Marge Gill, Dr. Martha Littlefield, Dr. Joe Stark, and Dr. Gary Sullivan are all helping Cat Haven to grow and to help save more lives.

THANK YOU *to all of the veterinarians that generously volunteer at Cat Haven. We couldn't do what we do without you!*



KOVU'S RESCUE

From next in line for euthanasia to a safe haven

Kovu was next in line to be euthanized at an overcrowded animal control facility when Cat Haven ran to the rescue. After hearing of his desperate circumstances, we transferred Kovu to our Adoption Program to give him another chance at life. Quickly we realized what an amazing personality he had. He would lounge around the shelter and hang out with our Animal Care Specialists in the morning. While they were pushing the cart around to feed and water cats, Kovu would be sitting on the bottom of the cart just lazily watching as caretaking was done. He was a staff favorite cat, but we realized after a while that his appetite changed suddenly.

After a lengthy process of diagnostic procedures, medications, and diet changes, we eventually found that he was diabetic. Giving insulin to a cat twice a day, at twelve hours apart, was not the easiest thing to do here in the shelter. We reached out to our foster network and one of our regular fosters, Becky, said she would be able to care for Kovu.



Kovu thrived in his new home, loving his new mom and enjoying the greater degree of freedom he had in her home compared to the shelter. In fact, he loved his new home so much that his diabetes disappeared! After a few weeks in foster care, we were surprised to see that his insulin levels were back at a regular level. Sometimes, tender love and care is the best medicine and Kovu is living proof of that.

Becky decided she couldn't bear to let Kovu go and adopted him from us. To this day, Kovu is living healthily and happily in his new home. We couldn't be happier to see him thriving today.

CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Three cheers for our all-star volunteers

Ewa Rainey has been volunteering at Cat Haven since August 2010. She is a lifelong animal lover and the owner of 4 happy rescued cats. Ewa says “I joined Cat Haven since I liked the people working there, their devotion to the cause that I support and their level of professionalism. Their deep knowledge of cats and compassion was something I admired. I learned a lot about cats there and was given the opportunity to put this knowledge to work.”

Over the years her volunteer work has involved many Cat Haven activities: keeping the adoption center clean and organized, assisting with fundraising events, off-site adoption events, caretaking, educating adopters on cat care, socializing with cats and other daily tasks. Now, Ewa is focused on working with potential adopters and trying to find the kitty that fits their needs best. She says the happiest and most rewarding part comes when the kitty finds a permanent, loving home and the adoption is completed. “Thank you Cat Haven for helping my dreams come true.”



“The happiest and most rewarding part comes when the kitty finds a permanent, loving home.” - Ewa Rainey



Lala Babin started volunteering in June of 2023. Even though she's still learning the ropes, Cat Haven can depend on her to do whatever needs to be done. Whether she's cleaning rooms, doing laundry, or playing with cats, Lala “just loves being at Cat Haven.”

Although she doesn't have any cats at home just yet, Lala loves every cat at Cat Haven as if they were her own. She hopes to be prepared for the responsibilities of cat ownership in the future so she can bring a fur baby home.

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\$5,000 and up

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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OUR MISSION

Helping the Greater Baton Rouge area

Cat Haven is making great efforts to lead The Greater Baton Rouge area in becoming a no-kill community for cats and kittens by providing care, shelter, and adoption services, as well as advocating for routine spaying and neutering for population control.

Admissions: 961

Adoptions: 958

Felines spay/neutered by Cat Haven: 706

Cat Haven Revenue: \$541,650.00 (unrestricted)
\$ 84,859.00 (new building fund)

Cats admitted through:

Owner Surrender: 206

Return of previously adopted cats: 101

Stray/homeless: 452

Transfer from other shelters: 161

From Companion Animal Alliance (EBR's public shelter): 41

East Baton Rouge population: 450,544

Households with at least one pet: 66%

Households with at least one cat: 46%

1 in 10 EBR residents volunteered in their communities



cat haven
GREATER BATON ROUGE

*On behalf of 958 kitties and their new families, **THANK YOU***



Thanks to our community veterinary clinics and veterinarians who helped keep our cats and kittens healthy in 2023:

All Pets Animal Hospital
Associated Veterinary Services
Azalea Lakes Veterinary Clinic
Baton Rouge Veterinary Specialists
Dr. Meena Braden
Dr. Rechelle Brooks
Capital Area Veterinary Specialist
Cat Care Center
Dr. Lisa Ciolino
Dr. Marge Gill
Dr. Martha Littlefield

Old Hammond Veterinary Hospital
Perkins Road Animal Hospital
Dr. Layne Shelton
Sherwood South Animal Hospital
Southern Veterinary Eye Care
Dr. Joe Stark
Dr. Gary Sullivan
White Oak Animal Hospital
Dr. Wendy Wolfson and the LSU School of
Veterinary Medicine Shelter Medicine Team



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