



2025 Impact Report



ADOPT · A · DOG

Coming to the Rescue Since 1981



From Our Executive Director

As we reflect on this past year, I want to begin with one simple but powerful message: **Thank You.**

Rescue is 365 days a year, and because of the unwavering support of our team, 348 dogs found loving homes this past year. Behind every adoption is a story of patience, teamwork, and hearts that never gave up. Even more meaningful is seeing families return to adopt again and again, a true testament to the trust and impact of our work.

We are proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with our rescue partners, both near and just a stone's throw away, building strong relationships and supporting one another. Animal welfare is a shared mission, and together, we are stronger.

Above all, our work is made possible by the generosity of our donors. Their continued support keeps our shelter doors open, our dogs safe and cared for, and our mission moving forward. Every donation large or small, directly fuels the lifesaving work we do each and every day.

To our staff and volunteers: you are the heart of Adopt-A-Dog. Your dedication, resilience, and unwavering belief in this cause inspire me daily. Thank you for showing up, for advocating for those without a voice, and for proving that when a community comes together, lives are changed.

With deep gratitude and pride,

♥ *Christine Amato*

Our Team



Leadership

Christine Amato, Executive Director

Bobby Caldwell, Associate Director of Animal Placement & Sheltering

Brian Gordiski, Director of Operations

Marketing & Development

Kapri Chieffalo, Marketing & Social Media

Barb Drayer, Director of Development

Peyton Kasak, Social Media

Samantha Nussbaum, Development Manager

Administrative Volunteers

Karen Gerring, Junior Volunteer Coordinator

Sarah Langmuir, Volunteer Coordinator

Chessy Santoro, Foster Coordinator

Kennel Staff

Hayley Beach

Leslie Bernero

Jack Carlucci

Gaby Cohen

Katherine Freilich

Mimi Medeiros

Jacob Mina

Gianna Selleck

Mionna Williams

Our Board

Board Members During 2025

Elliot Benton

Barb Drayer

Ellie Gerli

Cynthia Ginter

David Hemenway

Suzanne Hogan

Courtney Fog Henritze

Peyton Kasak

Stephen Littell

Len Mitchell

Mary Rolla

Walt Steenbergen



Board Member, Ellie Gerli, helping out at an adoption event

About

Adopt-A-Dog was founded in 1981 by Donna Nives, Gloria Scheuer, and Pam Fahrenstock, who became increasingly concerned about the growing number of dogs spending long periods of time in local pounds simply because the public didn't know they were available for adoption.

In February 1982, Adopt-A-Dog received its designation as an IRS tax-deductible charity, allowing the organization to grow and strengthen its mission. In 1999, Adopt-A-Dog purchased a full-service kennel in Armonk, New York, expanding its capacity to rescue and care for dogs in need.

Today, Adopt-A-Dog is powered by a dedicated team of staff, volunteers, fosters, and community members. We are committed to providing the highest standard of care to every dog we rescue. Serving the tri-state area and extending our lifesaving efforts to Southern states where the need is greatest, Adopt-A-Dog continues to give dogs a second chance at life.



Our Mission:

To save, socialize, and secure loving homes for abandoned and unwanted dogs.



2025 In Review

35,000+
Meals Served



329
New Donors

54
Dogs Went to Foster

5,169

Hours Given by our
Incredible Volunteers

868
Generous Donors - Thank You!



348 Dogs Adopted

Happy Tails: Adopters Testimonials



My Fiancé and I adopted Enzo, formerly Burbank, in November of 2024. We ended up adopting Enzo when he was around 5-6 months old and he was the perfect addition to our little family. The process of adopting Enzo through 'Adopt-A-Dog' was such a smooth and secure process. Adopt-A-Dog makes 100% sure that they are adopting out dogs who are going to go to good homes. We were able to fill out an adoption application right through their website on Enzo (Burbanks) profile securing him for our family, whilst also making sure he was a good fit. The lovely staff and volunteers behind the adoption process in its entirety were absolutely phenomenal, giving us all of the information not only for our pup, but for the decompression of all shelter dogs in general. After our application was approved, we were able to go see Enzo in the shelter to make sure he was still the perfect fit. Once we all agreed Enzo was exactly who our family needed, we picked him up from the shelter about 1 week later! We were given all of his important records and documents, along with the food he was currently on, as well as the measurements to go along with it. Adopt-A-Dog also provided a collar for Enzo for his freedom ride that we still have to this day!

Fast forward to a little over a year later, and that shy, timid dog we had met in the shelter has flourished into a dog we thought we would never see! His confidence and spunkiness has reached new horizons, and he never fails to make us laugh. Enzo loves other dogs, but is still very nervous around people, but there is no doubt in our minds that he will get over this obstacle as well. Seeing how providing him comfort and training transformed him in just a year truly shows how resilient dogs can be.

This is your sign to adopt! Your best friend is out there!

— Alexis, Enzo's Adopter



I'm happy to report that Buck and Akuma's first year and a half with me (9 months since I foster failed) have been filled with adventure, joy, and lots of cuddles. They have really settled into home life and thrive on routine and structure, while still enjoying their daily zoomies. They love walks around the neighborhood, but get super excited for trips to their favorite parks. I swear Buck is part hound because sniffing out deer is his favorite pastime, and he loves to zigzag around following all the smells! He's very outdoorsy and often gazes out the window with a dreamy expression. Akuma is just as happy curling up next to me on the couch as he is "leading" our walks, and he loves to march around the house, head held high with his favorite toy in his mouth!

— Julie, Buck & Akuma's Adopter



Adopt. Don't Shop. Find your best friend now at www.adoptadog.org



Happy Tails: Second Chances from Jamaica



In November, after Hurricane Melissa devastated the island of Jamaica, 10 sweet pups began a journey that would change their lives forever. Thanks to the compassion and dedication of Negril Pup Rescue, Christina, at Operation Kindness, Wings of Rescue, Humane World for Animals, and many incredible individuals working behind the scenes, these dogs were given a chance at safety and a brighter future at Adopt-A-Dog.

Because of this collective compassion, seven of the pups are already home (five adopted and two in foster), curled up on couches, learning new routines, and surrounded by love. The others are still patiently waiting for their forever families.

Since arriving, they've experienced so many "firsts," including their very first snow day, where they ran, played, and explored together! They get along beautifully, have wonderful personalities, and continue to show just how special they are as they wait for the next chapter of their stories to unfold.



Gizmo



"After our dog Mr. Marvin Kleinfeld (my fourth AAD) passed away Simon Scheuster and I had a big hole in our hearts. I was poking around dog adoption sites always just a day late. I reached out to Brian at Adopt-A-Dog and he assured me that he had a dog for us. Brian and I decided that I should come down on Wednesday and have a look. As it turned out Simon and I couldn't wait for Wednesday and on Tuesday morning we set out in a snowstorm to go get a new friend. When we got to AAD we met a few very nice pups but something about Gracie's quiet charm won me over. Two days later it was Christmas and Gracie folded in seamlessly with 14 people and 5 other dogs as if she'd always been there. Since then Gracie has become quite the class clown at times but always regal, polite and so very, very loving. Thank you AAD for the opportunity of yet another love of my life."

- Kathi Roemer, Gracie's Adopter

Looking for Love: Adopt Russell



Russell's story is one of resilience, compassion, and the power of a second chance.

An 8-year-old Norwegian Elkhound-German Shepherd mix, Russell endured months of severe pain without ever losing his gentle, trusting nature. His journey toward healing began when a good Samaritan found him near a highway with a devastating leg injury and rushed him to emergency care. There, staff recognized him immediately, he had previously been seen for the same untreated injury he'd been suffering from since August.

This time, his owners agreed to relinquish him so he could finally get the help he needed. Despite everything he'd been through, Russell arrived sweet, calm, and loving. After evaluation, our veterinary partners confirmed that his injuries were too severe to repair, and amputation was the only way to end his pain.

Though we worried how an older, larger dog would adapt, Russell proved just how strong he is. He is healing beautifully, moving confidently, and most importantly, living pain-free.

Today, Russell is full of life, affectionate, and happy, with a heart as big as his smile. He loves people, gets along well with other dogs, and is ready to leave his past behind and begin a new chapter in a loving forever home.

Happy Tails: Three Beagles. Three New Beginnings.

In May of last year, Adopt-A-Dog stepped in to help three very special beagles, Ben, Precious, and Mikey, from Stamford Animal Control.

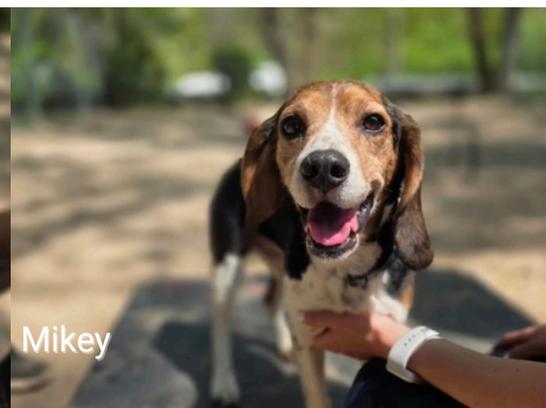
When they arrived, the beagles were understandably unsure of their surroundings. Each of them carried their own struggles and revealed their own unique personality.

With patience, structure, and compassion, they have begun to understand what it means to feel safe and to trust humans. Incredibly, they had never even touched grass before.



Today, their journeys beautifully reflect the power of rescue. Ben and Precious have found their forever homes, where they are now thriving and experiencing the love they always deserved. Mikey continues his journey in a loving foster home, gaining confidence every day as he waits for the perfect family to find him.

Ben, Precious, and Mikey are living proof of why rescue matters, and how opening your heart and home can truly change a life. Three beagles, three paths forward, all surrounded by love.



Where Time Meets Impact

In 2025, over 200 volunteers donated more than 5,000 hours to help us give dogs a better life.

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at Adopt-A-Dog. From walking and socializing our dogs, to helping with shelter clean-up days and lending a hand at adoption and community events, their support makes a real difference in finding forever homes for our dogs. We couldn't help as many dogs or provide the level of care they deserve without our incredible volunteers.

Interested in volunteering?

Email volunteers@adoptadog.org to get involved. 🐾



Foster families play an essential role in Adopt-A-Dog's mission. By welcoming dogs into their homes, they help prepare them for life with a forever family. It allows us to better understand a dog's needs and help match them with the perfect forever home.

Our Foster Coordinator, Chessy Santoro, states "Our fosters play a vital role in preparing pups for a smooth transition into their forever homes, helping them build confidence, routines, and trust. And of course, there are times when fosters fall in love and become adopters themselves—and that's amazing. I always say, there is no shame in failing! Seeing a dog flourish in a caring home reminds me why this work matters. Helping these animals find stability and love is incredibly rewarding, and I am grateful to play a small part in their fresh start."

To become a foster with us, fill out our quick application at adoptadog.org/foster.

Thank You to Our Shelter Partners

East Texas SPCA

Colleton County, South Carolina

Bladen County, North Carolina

Negril Pup Rescue, Jamaica

Duplin County, North Carolina

CT Dog Gone Recovery

Animal Control, North Canaan, CT

Animal Control, Stamford, CT

Animal Control, Norwalk, CT

Animal Control, Greenwich, CT

ACCT Philadelphia

Greenbriar Valley Animal Services, West Virginia

Pilots to the Rescue



Thank You to Our Vet Partners

Cornell University
Veterinary Specialists

+ 24-HOUR EMERGENCY



Cornell University Veterinary Specialists

Animal Specialty Center Yonkers

Guardian Veterinary Specialists

Pleasantville Animal Hospital





In the Community



An important part of our work at Adopt-A-Dog is connecting with the community and giving people the opportunity to meet some of the incredible rescue dogs who have found their way to our shelter. In 2025, we attended dozens of events throughout the year, strengthening relationships and sharing our mission. The highlight was our 37th annual Puttin' On The Dog in Greenwich, our largest fundraising and adoption event of the year. This flagship celebration was a spectacular success.

On a beautiful fall day in the park, 2,000–3,000 attendees, including dog lovers, their four-legged companions, nonprofit partners, vendors, and generous sponsors, gathered for a joyful afternoon filled with pup demonstrations and competitions, entertainment, adoptions, and philanthropy.

We were proud to honor Alyssa Rosenberg as our Volunteer of the Year, and Peyton and Maxwell Kasak with our Humanitarian Award, individuals who have gone above and beyond in supporting our mission and making a meaningful impact on the lives of rescue dogs. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, more than \$90,000 was raised to benefit the shelter, critical funds that directly support the rescue, care, and placement of dogs in need while helping us continue our lifesaving work.

2025 Puttin' On the Dog Event Sponsors



Volunteer, Maxwell Kasak, and Board Member, Peyton Kasak with Executive Director, Christine Amato

LEAVING TRACKS: 2025 EVENTS

AAD Pack Walks
Puttin' On The Dog
Howl & Prowl
New Canaan Dog Days
Fairfield Dog Days
Fairfield Harvest Market
Pets Supplies Plus Adoption Days
PetSmart Adoption Days
Petco Adoption Days
Stamford St. Patrick's Day Parade
Greenwich St. Patrick's Day Parade
King School Adoption Event
Westport Dog Festival
Westchester Country Club Dog Parade
Westchester SPCA Walk and Fair
Stepping Stones BooZoo's Adoption Day
Paws Crossed Day

Pet Pantry Adoption Days
Paws Crossed Day
Stamford Bark in the Park
Armonk Fol-De-Rol
Catherine's Butterfly Party
PepsiCo Employee Pet Adoption Event
Pound Ridge Church Adoption Event
Port Chester Dog Park Adoption Event
Wireless Zone Adoption Event
Connecticon Pop-Culture Convention
Stamford Health & Wellness Expo
Danbury Pets in the Park
Garavel Subaru with TAILS
Tasca Subaru Open House
Frosty Parade Armonk
LuckyPawLooza



Dozens of dog owners, families, and Adopt-A-Dog pups gathered at Howl & Prowl in Greenwich, CT, for a costume contest for a good cause!



One of Sucree's Sugar Cubes, Skittles, adopted at Catherine's Butterfly Party in Newtown, CT.

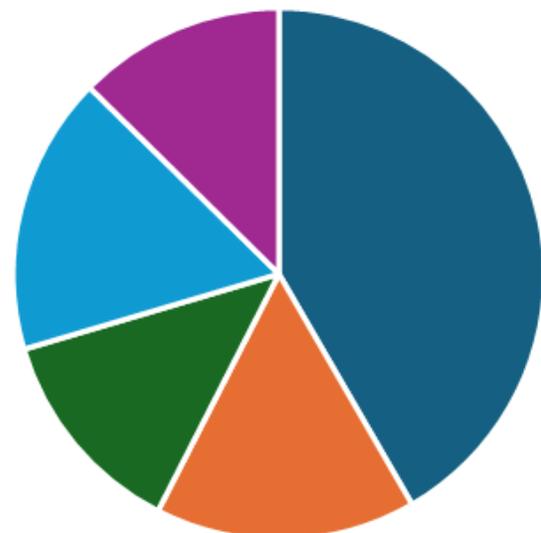
Every Dollar Saves Lives

In 2025, Adopt-A-Dog saved close to 350 dogs thanks to the incredible support of our donors, supporters, and adopters. With a physical shelter that cares for approximately 40 dogs at any given time and a committed staff, we are uniquely positioned to keep our doors open when dogs need immediate refuge. Adopt-A-Dog provides a safe place to land before finding their forever homes.

Caring for these dogs is our top priority, with most of our annual operating budget going directly toward their needs, including veterinary care, food, and facility maintenance. This commitment makes Adopt-A-Dog one of the most efficient rescues when it comes to maximizing donor dollars. In-kind donations of beds, blankets, leashes, and toys help offset costs, and our volunteers generously contribute thousands of hours each year, making our lifesaving work possible.



Revenue



Individual Donations: \$498,414

Earned Income: \$189,721

Special Events: \$154,512

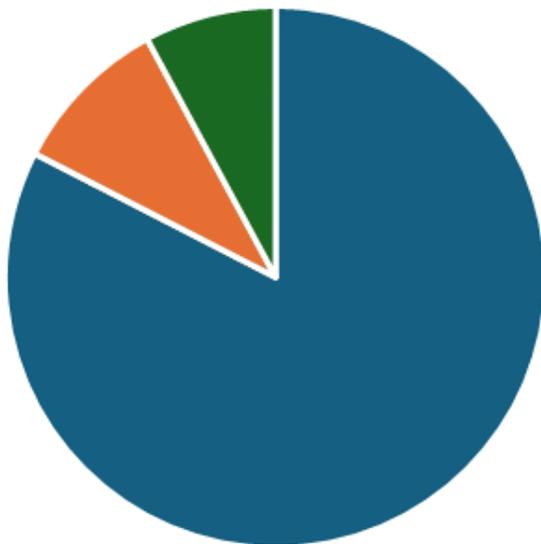
Investment Income: \$202,663

Grants: \$151,000

Program: \$854,481

Fundraising: \$99,176

General & Administrative: \$81,587



Expenses

* Note – Security unrealized gains/loss, related activities are not part of the investment numbers. Figures above are pre-audit. Donors may always request a copy of our most-recently submitted IRS 990 tax records.



Supporting Adopt-A-Dog is a meaningful investment in the community, backed by consistent leadership, responsible financial management, and a deeply dedicated team that truly cares about the well-being of every dog.

Thank You for Your Support



ADOPT • A • DOG

Coming to the Rescue Since 1981

Connect with us: adoptadog.org

