

ARKANSAS: 2023 At a Glance

Last year, around 415,000 dogs and cats were killed in our nation's shelters just because they didn't have safe places to call home. With help from people like you, Best Friends Animal Society is leading the United States to no-kill in 2025. We use shelter data to save lives, help shelters, and rally supporters in Arkansas and beyond. We believe that, together, we will Save Them All.

Lifesaving Progress



80%
statewide
save rate



5,878
dogs and cats
need to be
saved



32%
of those killed
were cats



68%
of those killed
were dogs



80+
Best Friends
Network Partners
work in GA

See the latest data as it rolls in at: bestfriends.org/2025-goal.

2023 Highlights

- In March 2023, we celebrated the **grand opening of the Best Friends Pet Resource Center in Northwest Arkansas** — the first-of-its-kind, modernized animal shelter in the country. In 2023, the center already had the fourth-highest intake of pets from shelters in the state of Arkansas, saving thousands of cats and dogs at risk.
- From the time the Best Friends Pet Resource Center opened its doors through December 31, 2023, our team **welcomed 1,696 dogs and cats; found homes for 1,527 pets; transferred 116 animals to other Best Friends locations or rescue partners for adoption; made 1,164 foster placements; and saw 2,353 dogs and cats in the veterinary clinic.**
- In our work of creating the shelter of the future, Best Friends has been **building partnerships that can help the state**, the region, and the entire country get to no-kill. In May, Best Friends and Baby Doge Coin teamed up with Blue Buffalo, Purina, "I and Love and You!", Walmart, and the Trisha Yearwood Pet Collection to donate 81,021 pounds and 13 ounces of pet food to shelter partners and the public. In the process, we **set a Guinness World Record** for the most pet food donated in 24 hours!
- **Two mentorships began through the Prince and Paws Shelter Collaborative Program** — one between Cabot Animal Support Services (Cabot, Arkansas) and West Memphis Animal Shelter, and another between Good Shepherd Humane Society (Eureka Springs, Arkansas) and Fort Smith Animal Haven. Named for the beloved adopted pets of its lead investor, the program pairs shelters that have already reached no-kill (mentors) with shelters that need support to reach that goal (fellows).

Areas of Focus



Advocacy and
policy change



Community cat programs



Peer-to-peer shelter
collaborations



Direct lifesaving efforts
through the pet resource
center



CALIFORNIA: 2023 At a Glance

In 2023, around 415,000 dogs and cats were killed in our nation's shelters just because they didn't have safe places to call home. Around half of those animals were in just five states — and California is one of them. With help from people like you, Best Friends Animal Society is leading the United States to no-kill in 2025. We use shelter data to save lives, help shelters, and rally supporters in California and beyond. We believe that, together, we will Save Them All.

Lifesaving Progress



79%
statewide
save rate



62,882
dogs and cats
need to be
saved



65%
of those killed
were cats



35%
of those killed
were dogs



520+
Best Friends
Network Partners
work in CA

See the latest data as it rolls in at: bestfriends.org/2025-goal.

2023 Highlights

- Best Friends in Los Angeles continued to save lives in L.A. and surrounding communities. Last year, **we facilitated 2,400 adoptions and 3,362 foster placements** for homeless dogs and cats.
- The **Best Friends Super Adoption**, presented by Bounty, returned to Los Angeles and found homes for 378 dogs and cats from 23 organizations in one weekend.
- Best Friends **started a satellite foster program for kittens** at the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA) in Los Angeles County, helping find homes for 217 kittens. Once the program gained momentum, we turned it over to SEAACA — along with the tools they need to continue the program successfully.
- A collaboration between Best Friends, the local community, and central California shelters led to **happy new homes for dozens of dogs and cats through adoption events** at Bakersfield Animal Care Center, Fresno Animal Center, and Kern County Animal Services.

Areas of Focus



Advocacy and
policy change



Peer-to-peer shelter
collaborations



Training and
mentoring
for shelters



Programs for
big dogs



Adoption



Direct lifesaving
by local team



FLORIDA: 2023 At a Glance

Last year, around 415,000 dogs and cats were killed in our nation's shelters just because they didn't have safe places to call home. Around half of those animals were in just five states — and Florida is one of them. With help from people like you, Best Friends Animal Society is leading the United States to no-kill in 2025. We use shelter data to save lives, help shelters, and rally supporters in Florida and beyond. We believe that, together, we will Save Them All.

Lifesaving Progress



84%
statwide
save rate



24,295
dogs and cats
need to be
saved



58%
of those killed
were cats



42%
of those killed
were dogs



275+
Best Friends
Network Partners
work in FL

See the latest data as it rolls in at: bestfriends.org/2025-goal.

2023 Highlights

- In August 2023, Best Friends partnered with Jacksonville Humane Society and four additional organizations to **support 21 Florida shelters through the Prince and Paws Shelter Collaborative Program**. Named for the beloved adopted pets of its lead investor, the program pairs shelters that have already reached no-kill (mentors) with shelters still working toward that goal (fellows).
- Best Friends helped **transfer 571 animals** from the state of Florida to other Best Friends locations and partner organizations outside the state where they would have a higher chance of adoption.
- After working for over a decade in partnership with other organizations to **repeal the Miami-Dade breed ban, Best Friends helped pass SB 942**. The new law not only ended the ban effective October 1, 2023, but it also prohibits breed, weight, and size restrictions for pets in public housing.
- In 2022, Seminole County Animal Services' save rate was 64% — and even lower the two years prior. Because the shelter declined offers of help, **Best Friends launched a social action campaign** to rally the community to become no-kill. As a result, Seminole County commissioners approved a trap-neuter-vaccinate-return project for community (outdoor) cats and hired a new shelter director with a proven track record of success and support of no-kill.

Areas of Focus



Community cat programs



Kitten lifesaving



Programs for big dogs



Peer-to-peer shelter
collaborations



Advocacy and
policy change



GEORGIA: 2023 At a Glance

Last year, around 415,000 dogs and cats were killed in our nation's shelters just because they didn't have safe places to call home. Around half of those animals were in just five states — and Georgia is one of them. With help from people like you, Best Friends Animal Society is leading the United States to no-kill in 2025. We use shelter data to save lives, help shelters, and rally supporters in Georgia and beyond. We believe that, together, we will Save Them All.

Lifesaving Progress



80%
statewide
save rate



19,423
dogs and cats
need to be
saved



34%
of those killed
were cats



66%
of those killed
were dogs



170+
Best Friends
Network Partners
work in GA

See the latest data as it rolls in at: bestfriends.org/2025-goal.

2023 Highlights

- **Three shelters in Georgia signed up to become “super mentors” as part of Best Friends’ Prince and Paws Shelter Collaborative Program.** Named for the beloved adopted pets of its lead investor, the program pairs shelters that have already reached no-kill (mentors) with shelters still working toward that goal (fellows). In 2024, the super mentors will support 40 shelters throughout the state.
- The Humane Society of Northeast Georgia began mentoring Augusta Animal Services through the shelter collaborative program, and a trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) program was launched in Augusta. In under four months, **606 spay/neuter surgeries were completed, and the program helped increase cat lifesaving at Augusta Animal Services by almost 24%** compared to 2022.
- When Camden County Animal Control ended their contract with the humane society, they became responsible for finding positive outcomes for all the animals they brought in from the community. This change prompted them to launch their first ever TNVR program. In under three months, they completed **over 200 spay/neuter surgeries and helped save 356 more lives** in 2023 than the year before.
- Humane Society for Greater Savannah, Chatham County Animal Services, Renegade Paws Rescue, One Love Animal Rescue, Lost and Found Savannah, and animal advocates in the community came together **to form the Chatham 90 coalition**, which aims to bring Chatham County to at least a 90% save rate.

Areas of Focus



Keeping pets and
people together



Peer-to-peer shelter
collaborations



Pet foster programs



Shelter intake diversion
programs



NORTH CAROLINA: 2023 At a Glance

Last year, around 415,000 dogs and cats were killed in our nation's shelters just because they didn't have safe places to call home. Around half of those animals were in just five states — and North Carolina is one of them. With help from people like you, Best Friends Animal Society is leading the United States to no-kill in 2025. We use shelter data to save lives, help shelters, and rally supporters in North Carolina and beyond. We believe that, together, we will Save Them All.

Lifesaving Progress



73%
statewide
save rate



38,017
dogs and cats
need to be
saved



65%
of those killed
were cats



35%
of those killed
were dogs



165+
Best Friends
Network Partners
work in NC

See the latest data as it rolls in at: bestfriends.org/2025-goal.

2023 Highlights

- Best Friends hosted a **big dog summit** (a training focused on helping shelters find homes for large dogs) in two locations in North Carolina. Representatives from shelters across the state attended.
- Wilson County Animal Shelter, Randolph County Animal Services, and SPCA of Northeastern North Carolina **began participating as fellows in the Prince and Paws Shelter Collaborative Program**. Named for the beloved adopted pets of its lead investor, the program pairs shelters that have already reached no-kill (mentors) with shelters still working toward that goal (fellows). Wilson County and Randolph County are seeing jumps in lifesaving averaging 35%, while SPCA of Northeastern North Carolina saw a decrease in intake of 55%.
- Mentorships and other avenues of support have paved the way for a **community cat program** teeing up in Onslow County, formerly one of the North Carolina communities with the highest rates of killing in shelters.

Areas of Focus



Advocacy and
policy change



Training and
mentoring
for shelters



Community
cat programs



TEXAS: 2023 At a Glance

In 2023, around 415,000 dogs and cats were killed in our nation's shelters just because they didn't have safe places to call home. Around half of those animals were in just five states — and Texas is one of them. With help from people like you, Best Friends Animal Society is leading the United States to no-kill in 2025. We use shelter data to save lives, help shelters, and rally supporters in Texas and beyond. We believe that, together, we will Save Them All.

Lifesaving Progress



77%
statewide
save rate



78,938
dogs and cats
need to be
saved



38%
of those killed
were cats



62%
of those killed
were dogs



405+
Best Friends
Network Partners
work in TX

See the latest data as it rolls in at: bestfriends.org/2025-goal.

2023 Highlights

- In Houston, Best Friends brought over 500 dogs and cats into our **local adoption program and facilitated transport** of almost 1,300 animals to partner organizations for adoption during the fiscal year (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023).
- Neighboring cities Pasadena and Baytown have made tremendous lifesaving progress since 2019. After six years of Best Friends working with city leadership, Baytown passed an ordinance allowing for robust **community cat programming**. In Pasadena, Best Friends' **shelter collaborative program helped save 410 more cats** in 2023 than in 2022.
- Best Friends assisted Kurth Memorial Animal Services, a network partner in Lufkin, with implementing a community cat program, improving sanitation protocols, and facilitating spay and neuter surgeries. The partnership helped the shelter **increase its yearly save rate by 14% and reach a 90% or better** save rate for six months.
- Brownsville Animal Regulation and Care Center (BARCC), in the Rio Grande Valley, had a 26% save rate in 2022. Best Friends partnered with BARCC through our **national shelter embed program** (made possible in part by a grant from Maddie's Fund®). In May and June, the first two months that a Best Friends staff member was embedded at the shelter, an **additional 624 animals were saved**. Despite a distemper outbreak, the save rate also jumped 43 percentage points compared to May and June of 2022.
- Through a grant and a partnership with Best Friends, Operation Kindness — the lifesaving leader in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex — will **mentor at least 12 area shelters** to help them achieve no-kill in 2025.

Areas of Focus



Access to
veterinary services



Advocacy and
policy change



Community cat
programs



Direct lifesaving
through Houston
lifesaving hub



Peer-to-peer shelter
collaborations



Shelter engagement
and support



**Best
Friends**
Save Them All

UTAH: 2023 At a Glance

In 2023, around 415,000 dogs and cats were killed in our nation's shelters just because they didn't have safe places to call home. With help from people like you, Best Friends Animal Society is leading the United States to no-kill in 2025. We use shelter data to save lives, help shelters, and rally supporters in Utah and beyond. We believe that, together, we will Save Them All.

Lifesaving Progress



88%
statewide
save rate



2,075
dogs and
cats need
to be saved



77%
of those
killed were
cats



23%
of those
killed were
dogs



66%
of all dogs
and cats
killed were in
Utah County



85+
Best Friends
Network
Partners
work in UT

See the latest data as it rolls in at: bestfriends.org/2025-goal.

2023 Highlights

- In our home state of Utah, the Best Friends Lifesaving Center in Salt Lake City **found loving homes for 2,746 dogs and cats, while 1,598 animals were adopted from Best Friends Animal Sanctuary** in Kanab, Utah.
- The Shipley Dog Lodges, made possible by a generous gift from the Shipley Foundation, opened at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, **giving dogs with behavior challenges a fresh start**. The state-of-the-art complex also provides a place for Best Friends to innovate and model how to care for at-risk dogs.
- The **Adopt Local Challenge** brought together Utah shelters and rescue groups and challenged them to engage their communities to adopt locally. Through the challenge, 612 dogs and cats were adopted, and 122 foster families were recruited.
- Salt Lake County Animal Services, Utah's largest municipal animal shelter, **celebrated 10 years of no-kill status**.
- Sevier County Animal Shelter in Sigurd, Utah, **achieved a 93.8% save rate for the first time**, thanks to support from Best Friends and community clinics and events.
- Through a collaboration between Best Friends and Southern Utah University, **168 people from across the country graduated from our learning advancement programs**, which include degree programs, professional certifications and credentials, and other learning opportunities in contemporary animal services.
- Of the 58 animal shelters in Utah, **all but 12 achieved or maintained no-kill status** in 2023.

Areas of Focus



Adoption



Advocacy and
policy change



Peer-to-peer
shelter
collaborations



Training and
mentoring
for shelters



Community
cat programs



Direct lifesaving
by local team



**Best
Friends**
Save Them All