



## A Message from the CEO

Friends, we are five years away from 2025. Yes, we have a mere five years to achieve our goal of no-kill for dogs and cats in every shelter and in every community in the country. And you know what? We're doing it.

This last year was a record-breaking whirlwind of collaborative, lifesaving activity on behalf of animals in every state in this country. And that kind of nationwide impact is unfolding because everyday people in communities big and small are standing up for homeless pets and working together to save them.

In Los Angeles, where saving more cats is the major hurdle to achieving and sustaining no-kill citywide, hundreds of kittens are being saved through innovative, inclusive foster programs. In just five hours, a Clear the Nursery event at the Best Friends Lifesaving Center in L.A. found foster homes for 146 newborn kittens from Los Angeles Animal Services.

In Kansas City, Kansas, thanks to nearly three decades of tireless work by local advocates, the city voted to repeal its 29-year-old discriminatory breed ban against "pit bull dogs." In Salt Lake City, Utah, and Gig Harbor, Washington, local advocates said no to puppy mills and helped Best Friends spearhead bans on the retail sale of puppies and kittens from commercial breeding mills.

In Texas, a diverse range of programming has turned the tide for the state where more pets are killed in shelters than anywhere else in the country. Community members hit the streets with the 2025 Action Team to advocate on behalf of local pets and a network of volunteer drivers chauffeured a whopping 880 pets from overcrowded Palm Valley Animal Society to locations in the north where they could find loving homes.

In dozens of other states and cities, people committed to achieving no-kill joined forces and worked together to challenge the status quo and save more lives. And we did the same. Just after the end of the fiscal year, our Executive Leadership Certification program, a rigorous academic program for high-level animal services leaders, was endorsed by Southern Utah University. And here at the Sanctuary, multiple animal areas, such as Cat World and the Parrot Garden, had a record number of animals admitted and adopted. In 2019, Cat World alone rescued 953 of our feline friends!

We also launched the community lifesaving dashboard, a first-of-its-kind shelter data visualization tool that will help empower people to support their local shelters and save pets. You are responsible for that historic progress. We are five years away from 2025. The animals are counting on us and we have a lot left to do. But, thanks to you, our path is clear and, together, we will Save Them All.

Julie Castle, CEO  
Best Friends Animal Society