ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

Since our founding in 2007, Furry Friends Refuge has advocated for and implemented the no-kill equation and the belief that every animal deserves love and a home, through its shelters at 1211 Grand Ave. in West Des Moines. In 2019 Furry Friends Refuge started its expansion with a new shelter to open in 2020.

Each year, we match homeless pets with loving families; reduce the number of unwanted litters through our low-cost spay and neuter clinic; provide a rewarding volunteer experience to all segments of our community; provide care for animals and guidance with law enforcement partners in local animal cruelty cases; share our no-kill message with schoolchildren; and never euthanize a healthy, treatable, or manageable animal.

Those accomplishments continued in 2019, which saw:

- 2,908 spay and neuter surgeries and many other specialized surgeries for both shelter animals and animals of owners with financial need
- 1,433 animals adopted to new loving families
- Our highest year ever for intakes with 1,925 animals entering our shelter

Additionally, we continued to move forward with work on our new shelter, so that the borders of our no-kill community can expand beyond West Des Moines, Clive, Urbandale, and Windsor Heights.

Furry Friends is a grass-roots, volunteer-driven nonprofit organization. We rely on donations and special events to fund our life-saving programs, and all revenue goes directly to caring for the 200 to 300 cats, dogs, and small critters in our care on an average day.

We place a high value on transparency. We have always made public our intakes, outcomes, and finances. You’ll find detailed information about intakes and outcomes in the following pages, and you can view information about our finances at furryfriendsrefuge.org or guidestar.org at any time.

Generous supporters have enabled Furry Friends Refuge to make our metro area a more humane community for all. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing care and compassion to the pets and people in our communities!
Furry Friends was founded to mind the gap between traditional shelters and niche no-kill rescues, focusing on offering an alternative to euthanasia. One key method that empowers our ability to save these animals is our **partnership with WestPet Animal Control**.

Since 2013, animals that are picked up by WestPet but not reclaimed after their hold time expires have come to Furry in 2019 Furry Friends Refuge was able to reunite over 350 animals with their owners.

All stray animals are posted at furryfriendsrefuge.org/lost-pets/ as well as on iowapetalert.com. We scan for a microchip and contact anyone to whom the chip is registered.

Staffers are on hand from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends at 1211 Grand Ave., West Des Moines, ready to reunite pets with their families. More information on how to contact them and what to expect is available on our website.
Here’s how animals left Furry Friends Refuge in 2019; “return to owner” includes pets picked up by WestPet Animal Control and reunited with their families through Furry Friends Refuge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dogs</th>
<th>Cats</th>
<th>Small animals</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthanasia/death</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to owner/ guardian</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer out</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>694</td>
<td>1076</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIVE-RELEASE RATE</strong></td>
<td><strong>99.9%</strong></td>
<td><strong>94.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>93.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>96.4%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furry Friends was proud to celebrate a fifth-straight year of being the Des Moines metro area’s only open-admission no-kill community in 2019, with an overall live-release rate of at least 95 percent for 7 straight years.

A no-kill community like ours – which comprises West Des Moines, Clive, and Urbandale – is one that takes in all animals within its borders, no matter what.

No-kill communities use a number of key principles (including behavior and medical programs) to ensure at least 90 percent of animals leave the shelter alive. Some animals who particularly benefit from open-admission no-kill communities are:

- Orphaned kittens who have to be bottle-fed around the clock
- Animals with treatable short-term issues like ringworm, heartworm, and UTIs
- Dogs with behavior challenges
- Pets with long-term conditions like FIV, feline leukemia, or anxiety
- Community cats