

Impact Report

2024



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“ PAWS was very helpful with helping my retired service dog, Heidi. Heidi had a tooth that turned green and needed to be removed ASAP. [PAWS' services were] very easy to use and they covered the majority of her surgery. Without their help, Heidi would not have been able to have that surgery.
”
-Shawnie G.

2024 Highlights

195% GREATER IMPACT*

\$99,670 RAISED

314 ANIMALS HELPED

489 TREATMENTS SUBSIDIZED

65 VET PARTNERS

3,880 UNWANTED BIRTHS PREVENTED

“ I will be forever grateful and thankful for all the people that donate. Because of the donations and PAWS Canada I have another day with my cats. *It really matters!* ”
-Sophia W.



*Treatments provided in 2024 compared to 2023

Meet Bug



“My dog Bug was my best friend for 15 years, I couldn't love anyone or anything more if I tried. He was my shadow and my confidant, he bounced at my joy and licked away my tears.

When Bug got really sick it all happened so fast, he had been suffering from a partially collapsed

trachea for about eight years at that point and then all of a sudden one day it collapsed altogether. That was the hardest time of my life, losing him felt impossible. Paying for him to get all of the treatments that he needed at the time also felt impossible. PAWS stepped in and alleviated some of that tension and stress by covering some of his medical bills. I really can't thank PAWS enough for the work that they do and for making one of the most heart wrenching times of my life, a little easier.” -Taylor D.

At PAWS we know that your companion animal isn't just your pet, they're family. That's why we are dedicated to helping animals and their humans like Taylor and Bug. Since 2021, we've made it possible for 453 families to take care of their furry loved ones by subsidizing 743 treatments - and our journey has only just begun.

With your help, we can touch even more lives and continue making a world of difference for families in need. Give hope - volunteer or donate today.

Our Story



About Us

PAWS was founded in 2012 by a group of volunteers who were astonished at the rate of unnecessary euthanasia in their community. They identified the need for increased wellness measures to prevent the needless loss of our furry family members.

We became a registered charity in 2022. Since that inception, we've made it possible for **458 human guardians** and their **491 companion animals** to get essential care.

In addition to subsidizing veterinary care for the most vulnerable members of our community, we prioritize education and prevention. We've developed online resources that help thousands each month, regardless of location or socioeconomic status, find information about **wellness, prevention, and available resources**.

Our Mission

Progressive Animal Welfare Services is dedicated to supporting the welfare of humans and their animal companions. We subsidize and improve access to veterinary care and offer solutions and education for people and community agencies. We aim to reduce suffering, overpopulation, and unnecessary euthanasia or surrender to shelters and animal control organizations.

Our Values

People need pets. Animal companions bring proven benefits for human physical and mental health and are particularly valuable for those in-crisis or living with disabilities. By giving pet owners assistance during difficult times we help keep families together and lift the whole community.

Who We Serve

PAWS' programs provide subsidies to help fund both preventive and emergent pet care to low-income families, ensuring that pets receive the care they need to stay healthy and avoid being surrendered or euthanized.

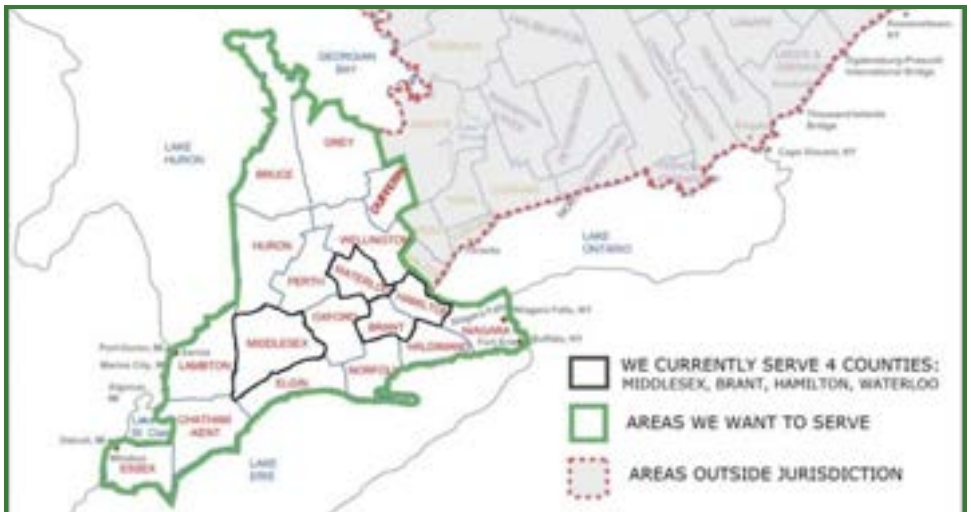
Members of the public with inadequate income (per published Low-Income-Cutoff data) who are unable to afford the cost of required, medically necessary veterinary care can apply for a subsidy. PAWS allowances improve access to preventive and critically-needed vet care.

Companion animals provide invaluable, life-changing benefits to their caregivers. Their loyalty and unconditional love not only give caregivers a feeling of complete acceptance, but pets can also empower them to lead healthier, active, and energized lifestyles.

Financial instability, housing insecurity, disability, and domestic violence can impact anyone with the full force of their brutality. Individuals going through crisis situations can find themselves feeling alone and isolated, without a friend in the world. This can seriously deteriorate one's mental and physical wellbeing.

We offer a subsidy to those who meet our criteria in the counties of Middlesex, Brant, Hamilton, and Waterloo. We look forward to expanding our service area as funds allow.

We also work with community agencies to become pet-friendly thus reducing the need for separation between people and their companion animals. Our education team develops written materials, accessible to all, on our website focused on prevention.



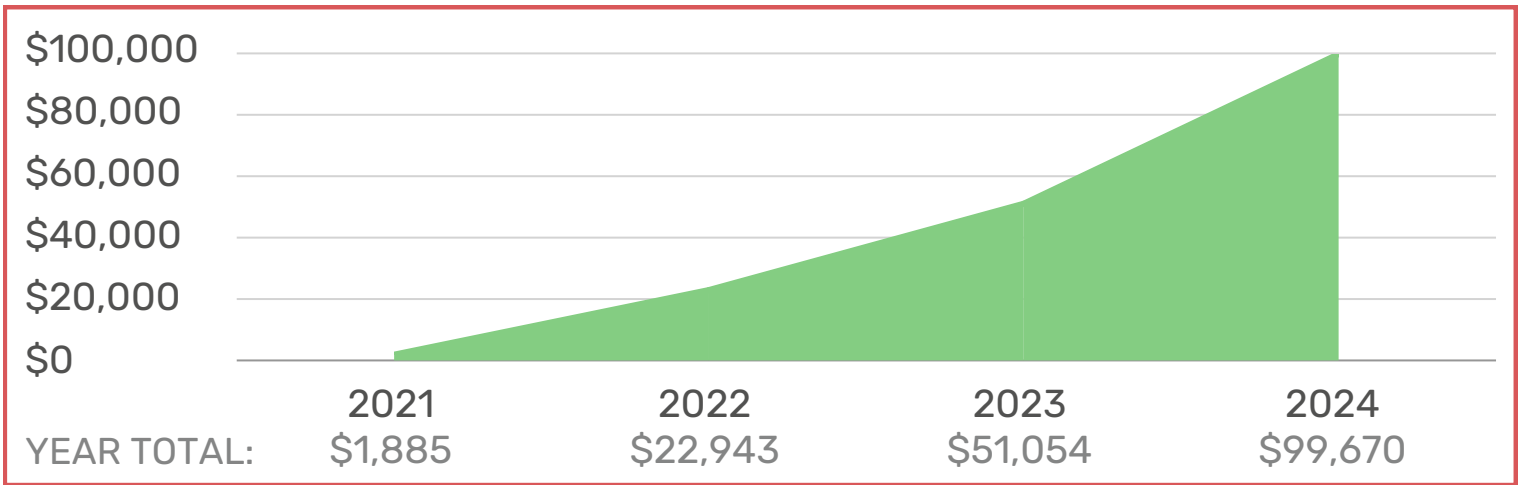
Finances

Revenue

\$16,234
DONATIONS

\$82,750
GRANTS

\$687
OTHER

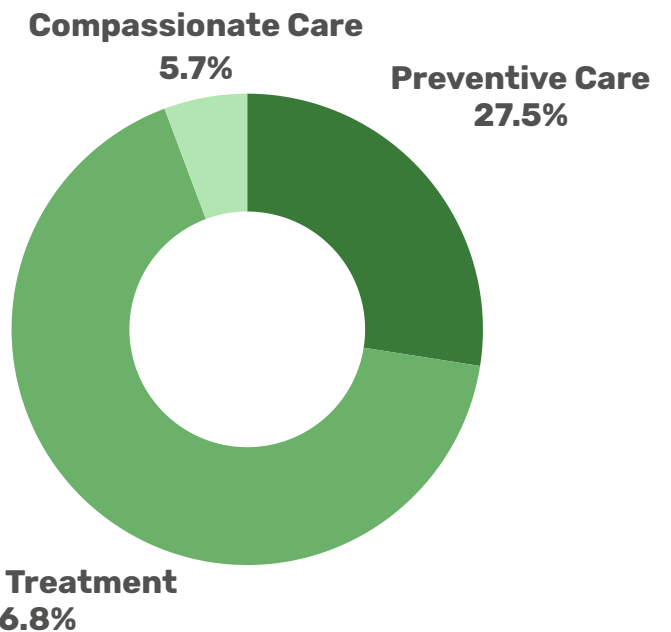


Your Dollars at Work

ADMINISTRATIVE: \$5,347 (5.7%)

VET SUBSIDIES: \$88,742 (94.3%)

TOTAL: \$94,089

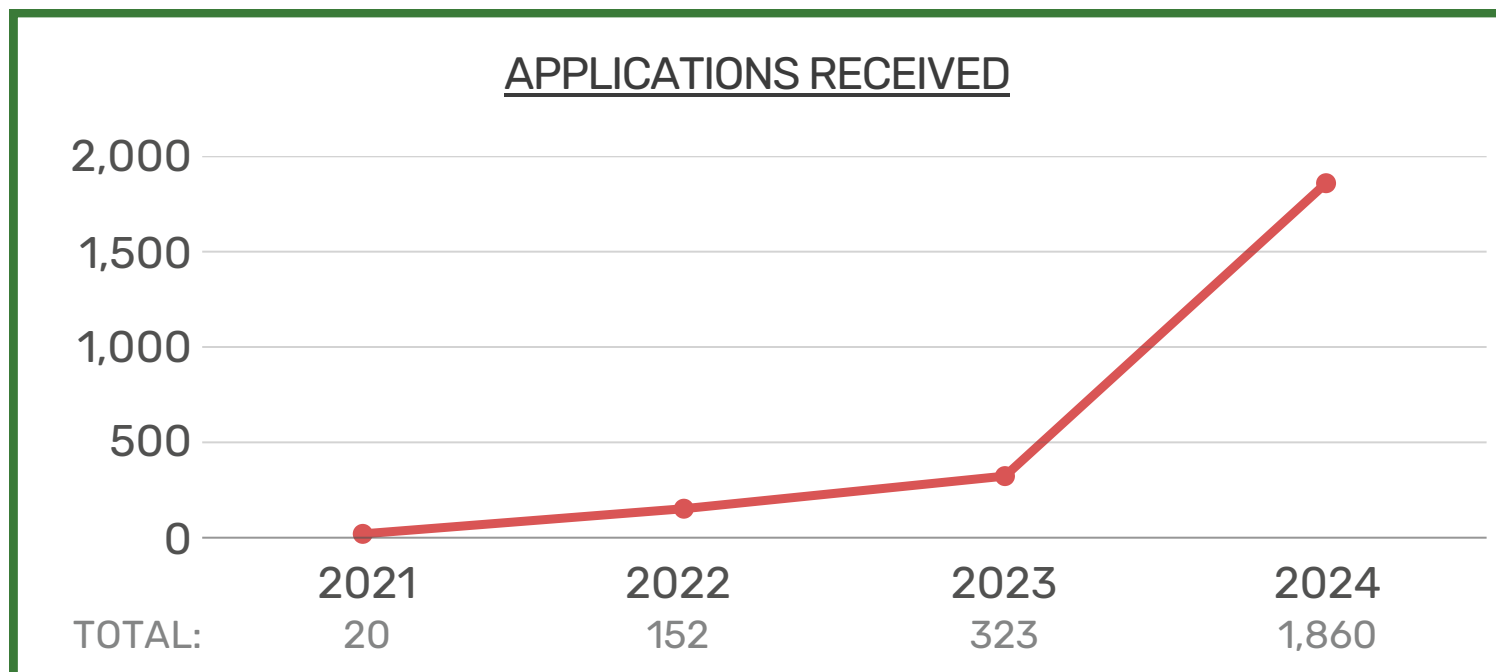


Community Need

We received **1,860** applications for assistance this year

Subsidies for timely preventive care will help tackle this pent up demand

542	402	117	275	524
MIDDLESEX	HAMILTON	BRANT	WATERLOO	OTHER



We need **YOUR** help to say yes to more fur families who need us

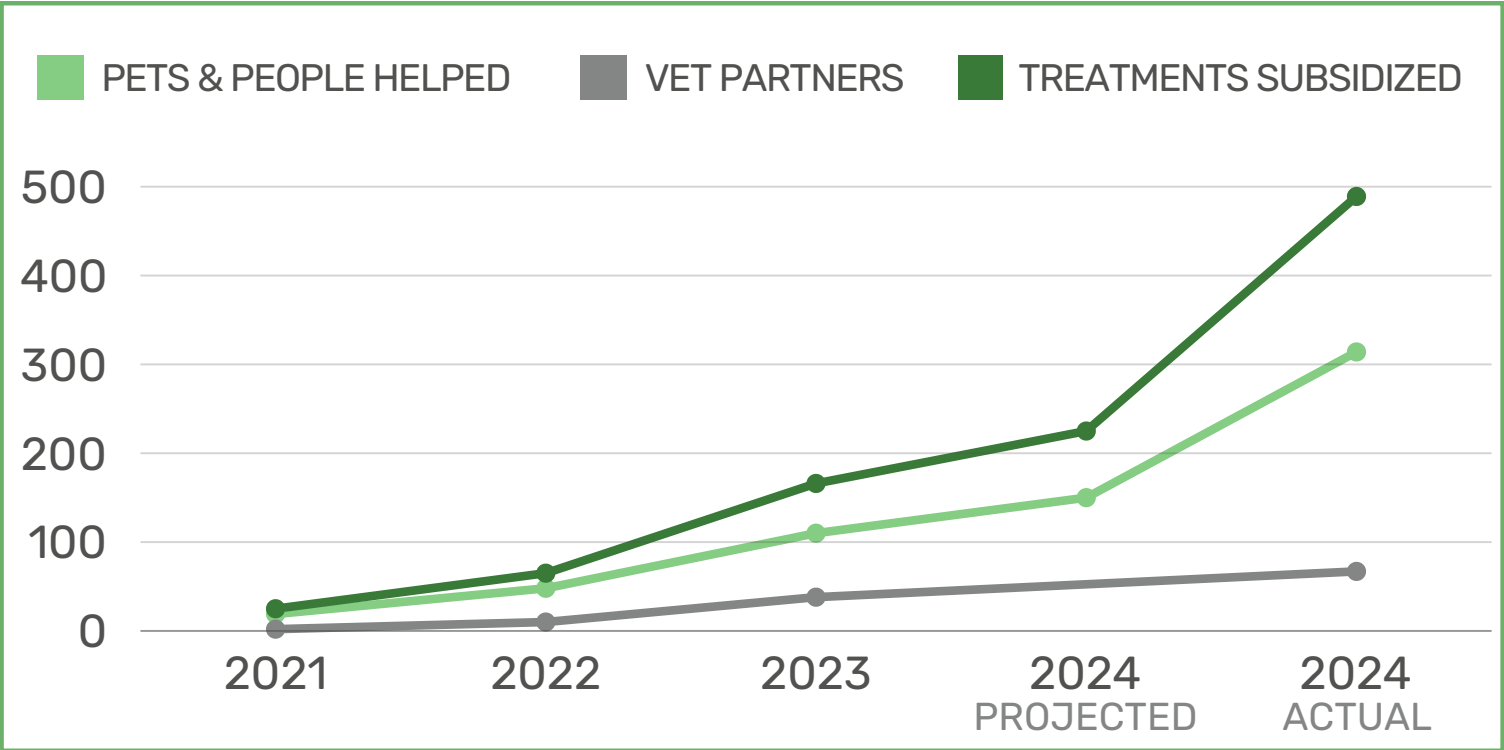
We're Growing

45% of Canadians reported that rising prices were greatly affecting their ability to meet day-to-day expenses in 2024.

One of the most distressing consequences of the rising costs is the difficult choice pet owners must make when faced with emergency veterinary care. Treatments for unexpected illnesses or injuries can run into thousands of dollars. Without adequate savings or insurance, many owners must decide between incurring debt or euthanizing their beloved pet. This scenario is emotionally devastating.

For our community members fighting to survive crisis situations, their animal companion becomes a source of resilience and can often provide impetus to continue taking care of themselves, get help, and find their way back to safety. That's why it is essential for them to stay together.

The need is ever growing, but so are we. **We're here to help.**



Get Involved

We're a group of dedicated volunteers looking for passionate people to join our team

Become a Vet Partner

PAWS works with multiple veterinary clinics across Ontario to help people in need get access to veterinary services. If you own or work at a veterinary clinic, and want to help make animal companion care accessible to low income and in-crisis families email us at: info@pawscanada.ca

Volunteer

Join our team of dynamic and enthusiastic volunteers! Most roles are virtual, but we also need assistance at in person events. We are currently actively expanding our marketing and event planning teams.


Help us save lives - join the team!

Applications | Education | Finance | Fundraising
Governance & Policy | Marketing | Outreach
Website | Technology Solutions

Apply at: volunteer@pawscanada.ca

Donate

We accept donations via Canada Helps & Keela. Keep an eye on our social media pages for upcoming fundraisers and events!

Without the generosity of our community none of this would be possible. THANK YOU! 



2025 Goals

Help 280 Families & 300 Animals

Raise \$100,000

The cost of vet care has rapidly risen. We carefully manage our funds to help as many as possible, so our average subsidy has stayed relatively flat at just under \$300 per pet. If funds allowed, we would expand our service area to meet more of the need across Ontario. We are completely volunteer run, ensuring >90% of our funds go directly to families and pets we serve.

Expand our Resources

We see the need in our community and we want to help. This year we will be investing in scalable application operations, additional resources, and process streamlining. We are continuing to prioritize the development of a strong, committed volunteer team. With strategic recruitment we will expand the wealth of knowledge to further develop our free education and prevention resources which are available to everyone. We continue to build relationships and look for collaboration with like-minded organizations to facilitate preventive pet care.



PAWS cannot continue this vital work alone. We need your help, now more than ever, to keep companion animals and their humans together.

You can make a world of difference for a fur family in need. Join us today.

Thank you.

Acknowledgments

Sponsors

To our generous sponsors and donors, your financial contributions have allowed us to bridge the gap for families and individuals who would otherwise be unable to afford critical care for their beloved pets. Your compassion is helping to ensure that every animal, no matter their owner's circumstances, has access to the veterinary care they deserve.



Veterinary Partners

To our incredible veterinary partners, especially **East Village Animal Hospital**, your expertise, kindness, and dedication to our cause are nothing short of extraordinary. You provide the highest level of care with such selflessness, and we are so grateful for the partnerships we've built with each of you.

Volunteers

To our volunteers, together, you are helping create a more compassionate, connected community, one where every animal has the chance to live a healthy, happy life alongside their human guardians. We could not do this work without you, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU for making such a meaningful impact in the lives of so many.

Testimonials

"One of my cats Carter was having major issues with hairballs and vomiting. I was really scared and not sure what to do as my veterinary bill was upwards of 500\$. As someone living on a limited income I was going to have to make some difficult decisions. Thankfully as I was trying to do some research on organizations that help I came across PAWS Canada. They were able to help me get to a vet and do some much needed tests on Carter. Whilst his vomiting continues, I was able to eliminate many possibilities and find out he's in general good health. I was able to start the process of his care journey thanks to PAWS. He's an important part of my fur-family and I'm eternally grateful!" -Stephanie R.



"Experiencing homelessness and depression is really difficult, but having my sweet dog Daisy by my side makes life so much better. When I found out she needed to be fixed, I was overwhelmed because I couldn't afford it. Daisy was in heat, and it wasn't fair to her. That's when I found PAWS, and they were a lifesaver. They covered \$350 towards her surgery and even advocated for me when I got pushback from the vet, which made everything less stressful. Now Daisy is healthy, not suffering, and I can just enjoy having her with me. I'm so thankful for PAWS and everything they did for us!" -Lindsay J.

