



**A Dog Is For Life®**  
**And we're here for**  
**every part**

Annual Report 2020





**Our third year as Dogs Trust USA has been a year that none of us expected. 2020 has tested us all, and indirectly had a huge impact on dogs and their welfare. More dogs in the US are in need as a result of the pandemic, so we know that our support and expertise is more important than ever before.**

**This year has made us more focused and more driven to create the lasting change we're aiming for - and change the tale for dogs across America.**



**With 97 million dogs living in the USA, making sure they're safe, healthy, and happy is no easy feat. That's why our work this year has been focused on supporting our partner organizations on the ground – in whatever way we can. While the whole world shut down, people in rescue centers, shelters and non-profits continued working through it all – doing their best and caring for as many dogs as they could, even when resources were limited or over stretched.**

Our commitment hasn't wavered, and we've continued to amplify the efforts of these organizations by sharing expertise and support. Because we believe that by working seamlessly together, we can shift the national culture towards dogs and make our country a better place for dogs in the future.

While the pandemic delayed many of the programs set to launch in 2020, not even federal lockdowns have stopped us from forging ahead. Our Dogs Trust USA Grant Program continued to expand and has supported 13 new non-profits this year. We've developed two hallmark programs. Our Professional Development Program will help dogs in shelters, so that they have a greater chance of being rehomed. While Dogs Trust USA Dog School will make training accessible and affordable to dogs and their owners, and strengthen the bond between them so they can continue to live happily together.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of dog lovers of all kinds – owners, donors, vets, rescue staff, vaccinators, behaviorists, trainers and many more. It's because of you that we're helping more and more dogs around the US to live safe and happy lives – thank you.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Owen Sharp'.

**Owen Sharp**  
President, Dogs Trust USA

**Vision:**

**We believe every dog deserves a safe and happy life.**

**Mission:**

**We're helping dogs and people to live better together - through education, training and support.**



## Here for life - whatever comes our way

**The world has changed a great deal more than we could have anticipated over the last year - for dogs and for people. But no matter what happens, one thing is for certain: dogs still need our care and support.**

The pandemic has changed our lives drastically. There are more people at home looking after a dog with behavior problems, more people experiencing financial instability, and more people getting dogs than ever before. As a result, the need for training, support and reliable knowledge and resources is increasing – and will continue to rise in the wake of the pandemic.

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**Dogs Trust USA is making it possible for us to improve quality of life and access to veterinary care for dogs who might otherwise face surrender to a shelter.**

**Lisa Labrecque, DVM**

Director of Veterinary Services  
Humane Society of Sonoma County, California

Behavioral issues remain the primary reason dogs are given up to shelters across the country, and generally these are behaviors that can be resolved with the right knowledge and support. Therefore, our main focus this year has been to establish two new programs that will tackle this directly. Covid-19 may have delayed the launch of these programs, but with the need intensifying, our determination to launch them quickly and safely has only grown.

We've spent 2020 planning, developing and preparing both the Professional Development Program and Dogs Trust USA Dog School, and are proud to say they'll both launch in early 2021 – with courses and workshops delivered virtually until we can safely resume in person sessions. This report details what we've done and what we aim to achieve as a result.

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**Support from Dogs Trust USA has meant we can provide the community with a full-time Behavior and Training Specialist who offers dog training classes and behavior consultation services. So far they have supported around 500 dogs and their owners since September 2020.**

**Mary Fuller-Repovsch**

Director of Institutional Philanthropy,  
Wisconsin Humane Society, Wisconsin



# Here for life

The bond between dogs and people is special. It changes lives, making each day happier and more complete. As dog lovers, we believe that every dog deserves a safe and happy life. That's why we're here for every dog, and every owner. By their side through thick and thin - throughout their lives. Here's an overview of what we've been doing in 2020.

## When life gets tough

When a dog is in distress, we make sure the right care is just around the corner.



Our **Professional Development Program** trains staff in our partner organizations to be mentors for other staff in their team. As a result, dogs get better quality care wherever they are, and whenever they need it.

## Finding a forever home

When a dog needs a home, we help to find them a loving family.



Our **Grant Funding Program** gives local organizations, shelters and rescues the funding and resources they need to help each and every dog that comes to them. So that every dog has the chance to find their forever home.

## Living well for life

When an owner needs a helping hand, we make sure the right support is readily available.



**Dog School USA** offers fun and affordable training courses for owners and their dogs, because we know that life isn't always easy. Expert advice, hints and tips can help prevent many problem behaviors and make sure families are living together happily.



# When life gets tough

**When a dog is in distress, we make sure the right care is just around the corner**

Rescue organizations, shelters and non-profits are where the real life-changing work happens. The US is full of caring, passionate people who are already dedicating their lives to caring for dogs in need. But often, they're overstretched and have little outside support, few resources and are working at their limit. In such cases, there's no room to plan for the future or consider the bigger picture. As a result, staff training can get pushed to the bottom of the list or is simply unaffordable.

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**LA Animal Services is excited to be working with Dogs Trust USA, and benefit from their expertise and experience in shelter education and dog behavior.**

**Dana Brown**  
Interim General Manager,  
LA Animal Services

**What we've been doing to help:**

**Over the last year, we established a brand-new Professional Development Program in the USA**

The **Professional Development Program** is designed to introduce staff in our partner organizations to well-established positive dog training and rehabilitation methods. It trains them to be mentors who can teach the course to mentees at their organization, passing on their expertise and offering ongoing support.

Our team, including a dedicated program leader, have spent the last year designing the structure and developing the content for this 3-month course. The content has been adapted from similar, successful schemes that Dogs Trust has delivered in the UK and across Africa. The course breaks down into three sections:  
1. Body language 2. How dogs learn  
3. Day-to-day activities. And throughout, mentors will be trained in how to deliver the program to their mentees.

Four partner organizations are all set to start the program from 1st May 2021 in New York and Los Angeles.

**Professional Development Program 2021**

**1 year**  
**4 partners**  
**20+ mentors**  
**200+ mentees**





## What we're aiming to achieve:

This program aims to support the dog welfare sector, where non-profits don't have the funding or time to do everything themselves.

### For dogs:

High-quality teaching in positive dog training and rehabilitation methods will improve the care in centers and ensure problematic behaviors are addressed quickly and expertly. This, in turn, will prepare them for life with a family, so they can find and settle into their forever home sooner. Staff at centers will then be able to give on-going support to owners – as they understand their new faithful friends, their behavior and how to handle them.

### For shelters and rescue centers:

By outsourcing staff development to a safe pair of hands, local shelters and rescue centers have one less thing to fund. This means that every member of staff gets the highest quality training, and everyone is trained in the same methods. Offering this kind of long-term career development to employees should also increase efficiency, reduce staff turnover and boost morale.

## What's next for the Professional Development Program?

At the end of our pilot year, we'll collect feedback from all the mentors and mentees to evaluate the impact it's had on their knowledge, attitude, behavior and confidence. With this, we can see how successful the program has been, review the course as a whole and refine the model to run both online and in-person before rolling it out to more partners.

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**Dogs Trust USA has provided an invaluable resource through the Professional Development Program. Seeing our staff, especially those designated as mentors, grow in knowledge and ownership of their responsibilities has been quite exciting.**

**Desirae Cambrelen**

Manager of Behavior and Training  
Bideawee, New York





# Finding their forever home

## When a dog needs a home, we help to find them a loving family

Every year, around 2.47 million dogs are taken into shelters and rescues in the United States. On average, 625,000 dogs and cats are killed each year because there's no room for them – and no other option. It shouldn't be this way. We believe every dog deserves a safe and happy life. Local organizations are doing everything they can, but as it stands, they just don't have the resources, funding or support they need to help all the dogs that are coming to them.

## What we've been doing to help:

In 2020, we gave a total of \$353,860 in grant funding to 13 organizations

We're here to support those non-profits, shelters and rescue organizations who share our love for dogs. Our Grant Funding Program gives them the funding they need, so that they can keep doing what they do best. Whether that's delivering support and advice to local dog owners, continuing to run neutering or vaccination programs, offering emergency veterinary care to dogs in need, expanding their shelter to accommodate more dogs, recruiting more people so that they can better cope with the high demand or any of the other vital services that millions of dogs in the US rely on.

## What's next for the Grant Funding Program?

Our support spans as many dog-loving non-profits as possible, and we'll continue to grow its reach – both across the country and across a wide range of services. By working together, towards a shared vision, we can make lasting improvements to dog welfare. The future will be a more positive place for a dog to live – we'll make sure of it.

### Case Study: Helping dogs stay with their owners

## Kentucky Humane Society, Kentucky

\$44,779 granted  
September 2020

In Kentucky, between 2019-20, there was a 36% rise in dog owners in desperate need of support, feeling the only other option would be to give up their dog. This grant is giving vet vouchers to 115 dog owners, providing behavior and training support to 150 dogs, and funding spay/neutering for 150 owned Pit Bull mixes – to try to curb the disproportionately high number of Pit Bull crossbreeds in shelters.



### Case Study: Helping overstretched shelters

## Stray Hearts Taos Animal Shelter, New Mexico

\$14,800 granted  
August 2020

Taking in between 1,100-1,300 dogs every year is no easy feat, but Stray Hearts have been doing it since 1995. This grant will cover the costs of sterilization, microchipping, and vaccination of 100 strays taken in by the shelter.

### Case Study: Offering low-cost veterinary care

## Humane Society of Sonoma County, California

\$50,000 granted  
October 2020

Humane Society of Sonoma County run a Community Veterinary Clinic that provides veterinary services to people who are on low income, experiencing homelessness or elderly, and could otherwise not afford necessary veterinary care. With this funding, 355 dogs and owners can be offered this service, which will keep the dogs in their homes and out of shelters.

In the three years since we began, Dogs Trust USA and our partners have directly helped 17,719 dogs to live better lives:

**4,916**  
dogs have found their forever home

**3,210**  
dogs saved from being euthanized

**413**  
dogs have been fostered

**3,461**  
rescued by one of our partner shelters

**3,664**  
dogs spay/neutered

**632**  
dogs fully vaccinated

**495**  
microchipped

**165**  
treated by expert vets

**656**  
given critical vet care vouchers

**157**  
dogs rehabilitated by behavior experts



# Helping them live well for life

## When an owner needs a helping hand, we make sure the right support is readily available

Problem behaviors are the single biggest reason that dogs are abandoned or handed into shelters across the US. Unfortunately, it's happening so often that the number of dogs needing care in some states is far greater than the number that shelters and rescues can take in. Offering training and support to dogs and their owners is the best way to resolve problem behavior and make sure families stay together. And while some training courses already exist, they are few and far between – and usually quite expensive.

## What we've been doing to help:

This year, we launched **Dogs Trust USA Dog School** – fun and affordable training courses for owners and their dogs to do together. We know that life with a dog is not always easy, but expert advice, hints and tips can help prevent many problem behaviors and make sure families are living together happily. It also means that owners are equipped with skills they can use in the future. So, dogs will feel happier and more comfortable around their families in the long-term, and the bond between dog and owner will continue to grow stronger.

A Dog School course is typically four, 45-minute weekly sessions with a trainer and three other dogs and their owners. The sessions run online, with access to our 'Dog School Owners Support Hub' for support outside of the sessions as well. We've also developed courses specifically for foster carers, as we've seen a great increase in demand since the beginning of the pandemic.

We've developed the model from Dog School in the UK which helps over 17,000 dogs and their owners every year. Virtual classes were trialed in the UK towards the end of the year and proved to adapt seamlessly. So, we've modified our courses in the US to work online, starting May 2021, with the option to introduce face-to-face classes once the pandemic restrictions have lifted.

Dog School USA will be offered to anyone who adopts a dog from our four partner organizations in New York and Los Angeles.

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**One of the main reasons families are forced to surrender their dog is due to behavior issues. This is often because they can't access or afford the dog training they need. Our work with Dogs Trust USA feels relevant now more than ever, especially as dogs adjust to new routines and life beyond lockdown. Ultimately we want to help prevent behavior problems being the reason dogs are relinquished and to help keep dogs and their companions together.**

**Risa Weinstock**  
President of ACC



## What we're aiming to achieve:

### For dogs:

Dog School USA is designed to prevent problem behaviors before they become damaging. It will decrease the number of owners feeling like they need to give up their dog and give them the expertise and confidence to handle the behavior if it returns again. Ultimately, this will make sure that dogs are happy and living good lives with their families.

### For shelters and rescue centers:

The training will help dogs and their owners settle in better together, and as a result, decrease the chances of the dogs being returned to a shelter.

## What's next for Dog School USA?

The pilot will run throughout 2021. Once the courses are all complete, we will work with our partners to assess the impact of the Dog School USA model to make sure it works equally well online and in-person so that we can continue to reach as many people as possible.

Ultimately, we'll do everything we can to bring Dog School USA to anyone who needs our support through a combination of virtual and in-person instruction. We believe that by strengthening the bond between as many people and dogs as possible, we can create lasting change in dog welfare.

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**We look forward to offering this program as a new training resource for pet owners and foster families who open their hearts and homes to pets from our Centers.**

**Annette Ramirez**  
Assistant General Manager,  
LA Animal Services

“““

**Our partnership with Dogs Trust USA opens up an opportunity to support our adopters and help them get off to the best possible start with their new pup. Training is a critical component of creating happy, healthy relationships between people and pets and we're thrilled to be able to offer expert and affordable training support to our community. This will help to provide practical training advice where it's needed, whether people are adopting a dog for the first time or are looking to enhance their existing relationship with their four-legged best friend.**

**Leslie Granger**  
CAWA, President and CEO of Bideawee





## What your gift can do

**Let's provide the education, training and support needed to help dogs and people to live better together**

**Your gift will directly impact the pups and people we serve. Together we can:**

- **Reduce the number of dogs who are killed unnecessarily**
- **Help more dogs find their forever home**
- **Give owners the training and support they need to live well with their dog**
- **Create real lasting change and make the world a better place for dogs in then future**

**To see what we're doing and stay up to date, go to:**  
**[www.dogstrustusa.org](http://www.dogstrustusa.org)**

“““

**I've loved getting to know Dogs Trust USA over the past few years, and I am so excited to see how their model can flourish in the US. When we got our rescue pup he was not used to a big city and training was invaluable, so it's great to see a group like Dogs Trust USA kick off this training program in NYC and LA.**

**Carrie Denning Jackson**  
The Ripple Foundation

“““

**I've really enjoyed my experience getting to know the Dogs Trust staff so far. It has been great to interact with such like-minded people who share the same love of rescue dogs and I am excited for the progression of our work together.**

**Emma Arctander**  
Licensed Vet Tech, Bideawee



As always, a huge thank you  
to our generous founders and  
their four-legged friends:

Founders

Melissa and Josh Arker

Claire Ambrosio and Jim Michalski

Stephanie Berger

The Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Foundation

Susan Bloomberg – in honor of Hugo,  
beloved companion of Georgina Bloomberg and  
a much-loved family member

Stephanie and Michael Bulger

Martha and Kyle Boyd – in memory of Heather,  
beloved companion of Ian Rose

Jim and Veronica Carbone

Betsy Beers & Bruce Cormicle

Barbara and Rodgin Cohen

Laurie and Brian Conroy  
(The Conroy Family Foundation)

Manuela & James Goren

Allan Heinberg

Carrie Denning Jackson  
(The Ripple Foundation)

Marilyn W. & Steven J. Joffe

Peter Nowalk, a Donor Advised Fund  
of The U.S. Charitable Gift Trust

Jill, Alan, Hilary & Lindsay Rappaport

Frank E. & Kimba Wood Richardson  
(The Richardson Foundation)

The Riggio Foundation

Rick Rosenthal & Nancy Stephens  
(The Rosenthal Family Foundation)

The Rivaya Fund of the  
Jewish Communal Fund

Steven A. & Roberta Denning  
(The Sage Foundation)

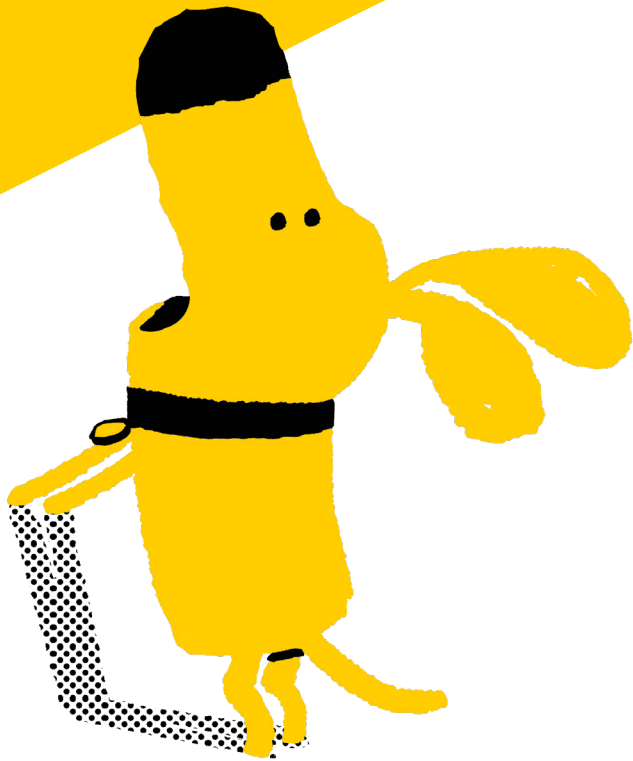
The Flora Family Foundation

Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust Worldwide

Dr Jeffrey Young

Craig Weiner







## Thank you to those who generously supported our efforts this year

Melissa and Josh Arker

Meredith Beck

Benevity Impact Fund

The Emma and Georgina  
Bloomberg Foundation

Jim and Veronica Carbone

Laurie and Brian Conroy

Regina Bauer Frankenberg Foundation

Allan Heinberg

Horne Family Foundation

Carrie Denning Jackson  
(The Ripple Foundation)

Ali Moody

Animal Care Centers of New York

Bideawee

Los Angeles Animal Services

Milbank, LLP

Robert Pennino  
(Robert Pennino Productions)

Wags and Walks

“““

**Thanks to Dogs Trust USA, we've managed to finish our new outdoor kennels and it's been such a bright spot in a tough year. The dogs are safe and clean while they enjoy the outdoors and it's been so nice to finally be able to complete this much-needed project.**

Terre Haute Humane Society, Indiana



# Finance

## The year in financial terms

Dogs Trust USA is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization qualified to receive tax-deductible contributions. These financial summaries were compiled by management. A copy of the 990 IRS Form and audited accounts can be obtained by sending a written request to Mr Owen Sharp, President, Dogs Trust USA, 155 E. 44th Street, 6th Floor, Suite 34, New York, NY 10017.

### Total Income:

\$343,498

### Total Expenditure:

\$736,512

### Grants:

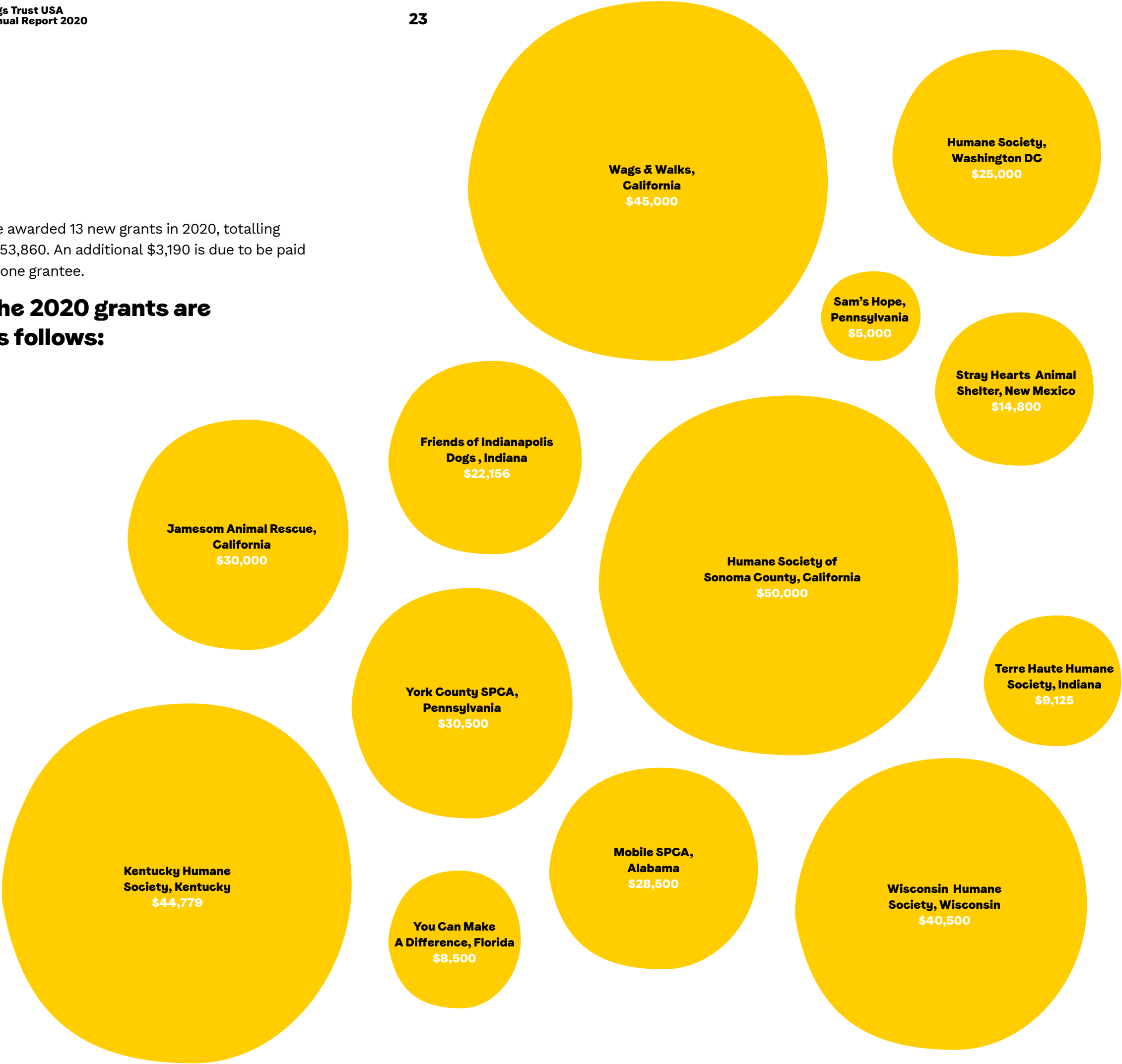
\$357,050

### General:

\$379,462

We awarded 13 new grants in 2020, totalling \$353,860. An additional \$3,190 is due to be paid to one grantee.

## The 2020 grants are as follows:





# Governance

## Meet our Board of Directors

The Board of Dogs Trust USA are the people responsible for the strategic direction, financial stewardship and legal compliance of our non-profit. They meet twice a year or more, to keep everything on track and assign day-to-day responsibilities to our executive team. The Board met a lot more frequently over the last year, to stay on track and work through the Coronavirus pandemic together.

Our Board members have decades of experience in international organization development, animal welfare, veterinary services and finance. Each member was appointed based on the knowledge and expertise they could bring to help us deliver our strategy, and of course, they are all life-long dog owners. Being a Board member is an unpaid position, so their passion and commitment to Dogs Trust USA goes without saying. Every new member of the Board must go through a formal induction process that outlines their role, responsibilities and duties to the charity. And they must declare any perceived conflicts of interest or loyalty are disclosed ahead of each meeting.

For more information on our governance, please visit our website:  
[www.dogstrustusa.org](http://www.dogstrustusa.org)

## Dogs Trust USA Board

**Mr. Owen Sharp**  
President



**Ms. Helen Walker**  
Director & Executive  
Vice President



**Dr. Jeffrey D Young DVM**  
Director



**Dr. Susan Monger DVM**  
Director



**Mrs. Veronica Carbone**  
Director



**Ms. Karolina Walkowicz**  
Secretary



**Mr. Brett Llewellyn**  
Treasurer





**We love to talk about all things dogs  
Get in touch whenever you fancy it**

**[www.dogstrustusa.org](http://www.dogstrustusa.org)**

**Meredith Beck**

Vice President of  
Development  
meredith.beck@  
dogstrustusa.org  
Cell: 646-717-7920

**Please write to us at:**

Dogs Trust USA,  
155 E. 44th Street,  
6th Floor, Suite 34,  
New York, NY 10017



**DogsTrustUSA**

**A dog is for life, not just for the holidays**

Founded in 2017, Dogs Trust USA Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of dogs across the United States – and around the world. Our EIN number is 82-2390086. Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS rules and regulations.