



USPCA
The Voice For Animals In Uganda



2020 Annual Report

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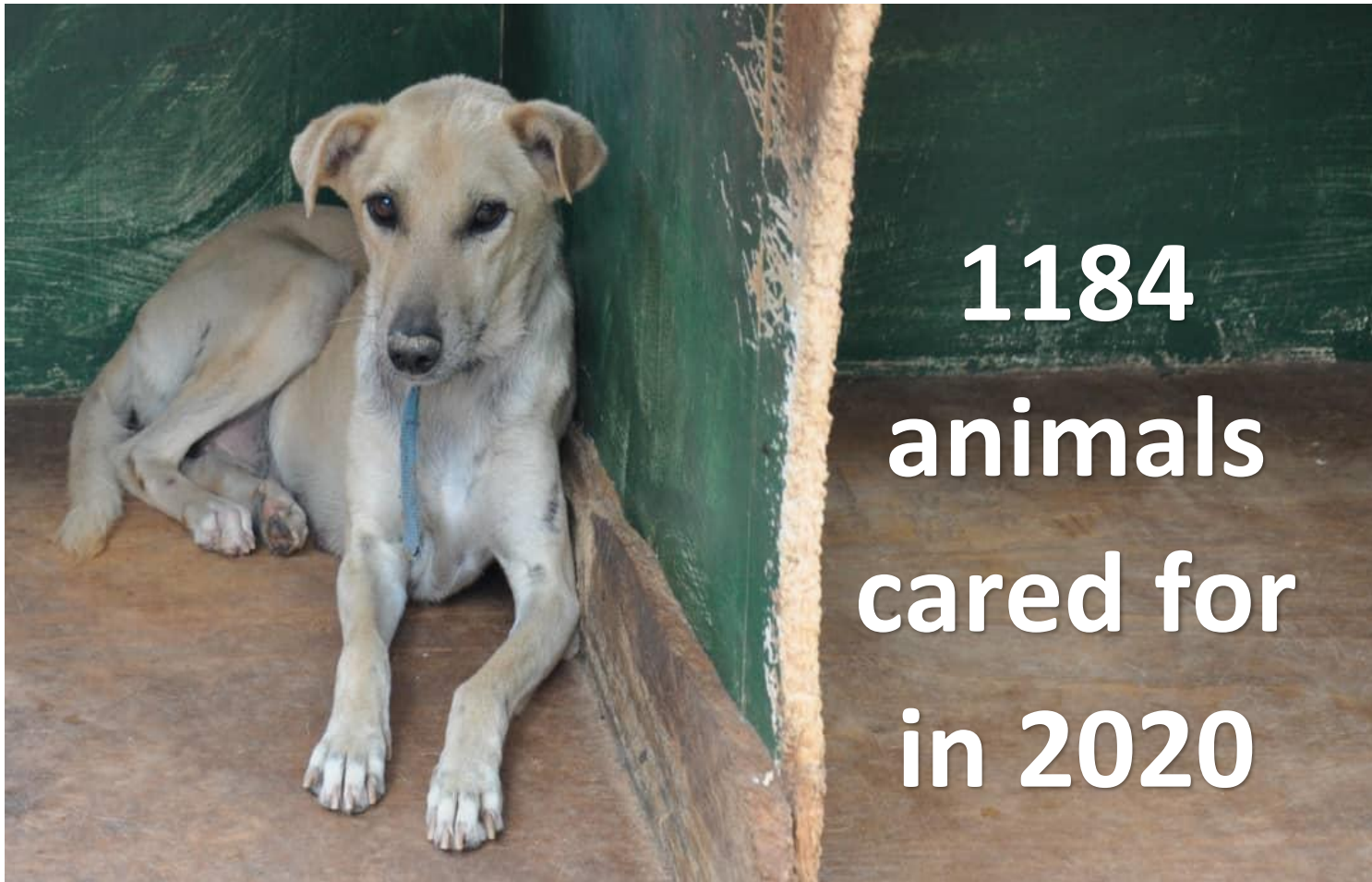
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Welcome to the 2020 Annual Report!

The Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (USPCA) is a non-governmental organization established in 1998 to respond to the immediate needs of abandoned, stray and sick animals whilst simultaneously tackling the root causes of the large population of strays. We work with communities and schools to support a healthier pet population. The USPCA operates an animal shelter, The Haven, which receives animals from across the country. The animals are emotionally and physically rehabilitated, provided with vet care, and spayed or neutered before being rehomed. The USPCA is registered with The National NGO Board, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Uganda.



1184
animals
cared for
in 2020

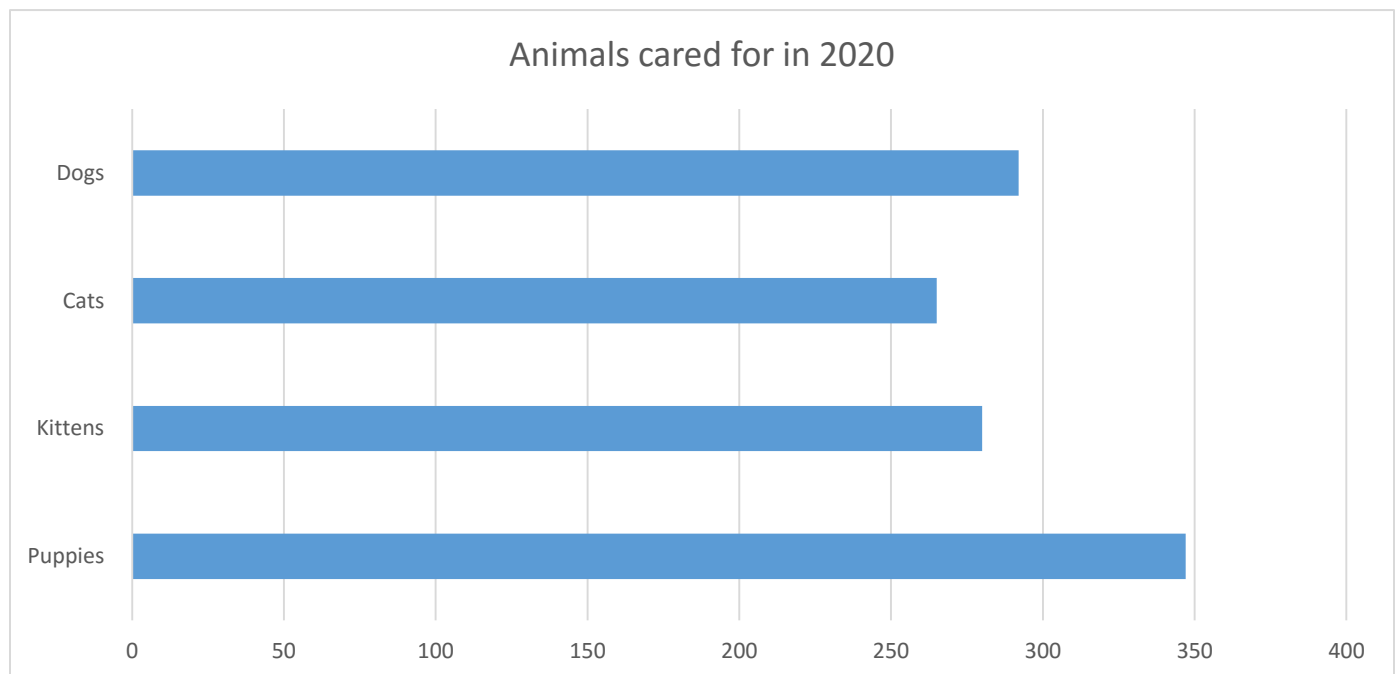
The Haven

The USPCA's shelter, 'The Haven', takes in unwanted and mistreated dogs and cats and provides them with the best of care whilst they await adoption. Dogs are housed in twenty communal kennels and cats share a large outdoor cat enclosure. There are separate dedicated rooms and kennels for sick animals, mamas with pups or kittens and orphaned kittens and puppies.

In 2020, The Haven cared for **1184 dogs, puppies, cats and kittens**. This is a 4% increase on the previous year and was received as a welcome break to the dramatic year-on-year increases of 139% when comparing 2019 with 2018 and 2017, when the shelter cared for 477 animals. The stabilisation of the figures is likely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as people were encouraged to stay at home and private vehicles were banned for several months, so very few people were able to bring animals to the shelter. The USPCA also received fewer reports of animals in need of rescue during the pandemic, likely related to having fewer people and vehicles on the road. On the other hand, a large number of animals was surrendered to us as their owners could no longer afford their care after losing their livelihoods. Also many expatriates left the country at the beginning of the pandemic and some left their animals behind, either relinquished directly to the USPCA or abandoned at their premises with little or no care provided.

As in previous years, puppies remained the most common category of animal in our care, followed by dogs, kittens and finally cats.

We have many generous donors around the world who support The Haven. In addition to local donors, USPCA Partner Organization in the United States, Animal-Kind International, raises funds to cover our shelter operations. Among other items, support from AKI donors covered five months of the rental payment for the shelter, part of staff salaries, cat and dog food, The Haven's electricity for four months and water for 5 months.





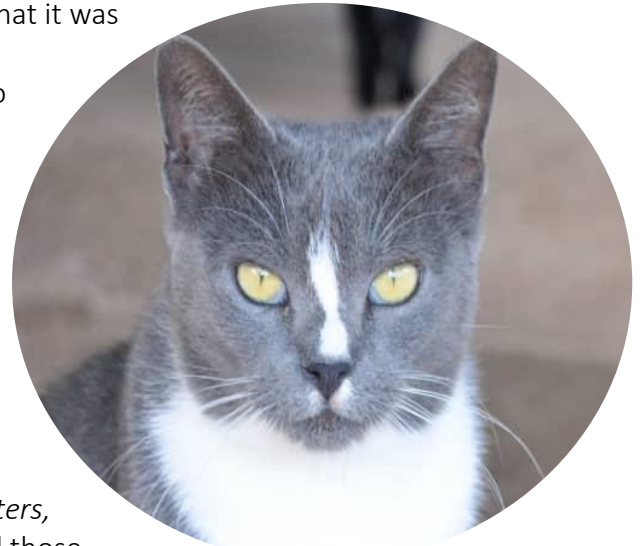
We aim to rehome all animals at the shelter and do not have a time limit on how long animals can stay, offering life-long care to those who need it. **314 animals were adopted in 2020, comprised of 121 dogs, 78 puppies, 76 kittens and 39 cats.**

Unfortunately, we had to euthanize 100 animals this year (8%), with a further 270 passing away naturally (23%). Many of these animals came to us in a terminal state or with such extensive injuries that it was more humane to peacefully put them to sleep. Others were already suffering from

diseases such as parvo-virus, which particularly affects very young puppies, and from which, sadly, many are unable to recover.

All of the animals at the shelter are spayed/neutered before being rehomed (if they are old enough and if not, they must be sterilized after they are re-homed) and all receive vaccinations and deworming.

Long-stay residents, those who are often overlooked by adopters, are generally animals with disabilities, behavioural issues and those who may have scars and disfigurements from difficult lives on the streets. All animals are precious to us, regardless of how they look or behave. Although a life at the shelter may not be ideal, thanks to our donors we are able to offer this option for those who need it, all the while maintaining hope for the perfect adopters to come along for each of the lives we care for.



Animal rescue

We receive calls at all times of the day and night from members of the public who are concerned about animals. This year we responded to a high number of cases of dogs who had been abandoned due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We dealt with several disturbing cases where dogs had been left behind in locked compounds after their owners had left and also some cases of dogs living on the streets who had clearly once been family pets.

We have as well responded to a high number of calls from people who no longer wanted, or given their circumstances during the pandemic, could no longer afford their animals and requested to have them removed. Where possible we work with individuals, providing advice and support, so that they can keep their pets, however if we are concerned for the animal's welfare then we will gladly accept them to The Haven.

Rescue story: Sophi

Sophi was rescued from the streets in a very sorry state. She had clearly been struggling for quite some time and had an advanced case of mange. After treatment at the shelter and lots of love and attention, she made a full recovery and was adopted into a loving home with a family who dote on her. They report that she loves playing with her toys.



Left: Sophi when she arrived at the shelter. Right: Sophi in her new home. What a transformation!

In addition to cats and dogs, the USPCA is occasionally called to rescue wild animals, most commonly birds. We have a working relationship with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre. This year we rescued our first Crested Crane, who was found on Mutungo ring road after injuring one of his legs. After picking up the bird and taking him to the shelter, he was later handed over to UWA for rehabilitation and release.



Fostering

The shelter is a very busy place and so it is not always possible to provide extra care and attention to animals that need it in order to flourish. We rely on a small group of volunteers who foster the most vulnerable animals. At the top of the priority list for fostering are always orphaned, nursing age kittens and puppies, as they require around the clock care. We also try to find foster homes for animals with disabilities, those who are very shy and are not coping with shelter life, that require additional socialisation support, and those with recurring health issues.

We also try to prioritise our long stay residents who have spent many years at the shelter and are repeatedly overlooked for adoption. Foster carers have the opportunity to get to know the animal's personality and take great photos in a home environment, making the animal's availability and needs very personal and an adoption more likely.

This year we had seven volunteers who offered homes to 50 animals in need. Last year 34 animals were cared for by fosterers.

Left: Bhavya Singh and family fostered this very sweet little puppy.

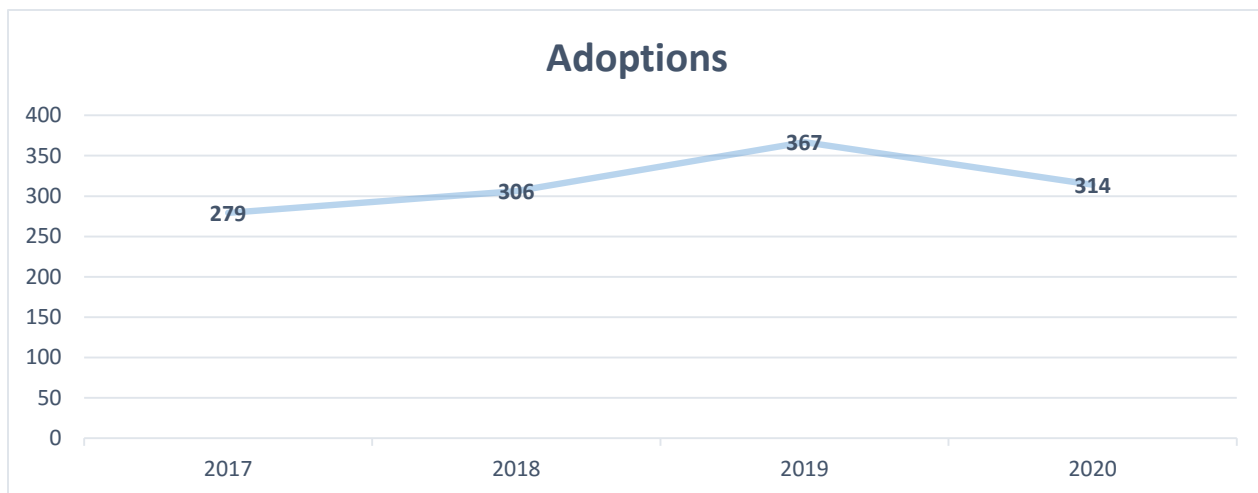
Below: These two kittens lost their mother in Kirinya and were fostered by Julia.



Rehoming

314 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens were adopted from the USPCA in 2020. Adoption is one of the key areas where we were negatively impacted by the pandemic and we saw a decrease in adoption figures of 14% from 2019. Our adoption figures had been increasing year-on-year up until 2020. But we are very proud that despite the long months of public and private transport bans, which meant very few people were able to visit the shelter to meet and adopt an animal from The Haven, we still managed to rehome 314 animals.

Rehoming rates 2017-2020:



Dogs were our most adopted companion animal (121 adoptions), followed by puppies (78), kittens (76) and cats (39).

Below: Kwizera and family adopted four kittens from the shelter for his family. Wow!



The shelter is open to visitors every day of the week and potential adopters drop by on a daily basis (except during the pandemic lock down). We promote adoption via our website and social media, highlighting particular animals looking for homes through our Facebook group.

Pictured: Senior boy Viktor and his young friend Alfonso went to a loving home with Sonja and Jacob. The couple came back shortly after to also adopt two cats from the shelter.



Adoption story: From Hope to Beauty

Hope was rescued by an animal lover in Jinja after she found her struggling to survive on the streets. After treatment and plenty of regular meals, Hope felt much better and was adopted into a loving home where she will never have to feel the pain of hunger again.



Left: Hope when she arrived at the shelter. Right: Hope, now renamed Beauty, on her adoption day.

Community outreach and animal welfare education

The USPCA usually runs a series of community clinics in underserved neighbourhoods around Kampala and Entebbe, however due to the pandemic our outreach activity was severely restricted in 2020. Immediately before the first lockdown measures took effect in April 2020, we conducted a community clinic in Kawempe thanks to the financial support of 2-4 Life Project. **47** animals were spayed/ neutered, vaccinated and dewormed during the clinic.

During the lockdown, once the USPCA gained special permission to use its private vehicle, we undertook further community work by picking up community animals, bringing them to the shelter for spay/neuter, vaccination and treatment if needed, then returning them. The USPCA helped **61** animals in this way, including 30 community dogs around the Kabalagala police post, as it had been reported to us that the community were planning to poison them. After long discussions with the Kabalagala Post OCS, he agreed to give us permission to sterilise, vaccinate and deworm the dogs. Many, many thanks to Dr Dickson and his students from Makerere University for carrying out the spays and neuters on this project.

USPCA supporter, Nicole Kalkman, sponsored the trap, neuter, return of dogs in the Nsambya area. In addition, 25 dogs on Makindye hill were vaccinated and dewormed, and nine of them were spayed.

The USPCA helped **133** community animals in 2020. Some community outreach work, such as treatment for TVT, involves animals staying at the shelter for a few days or sometimes even weeks or months, before being returned to their homes. Others can be treated in community settings and visited regularly.

A sizeable component of the USPCA's work is normally focussed on community education, however pandemic restrictions meant that, for most of the year, schools were closed and people were not allowed to gather in groups, public and private transport was banned, so animal welfare education activities were severely limited in 2020.



Community outreach story: Muyenga- Kabalagala

All the dogs worked on in the Muyenga-Kabalagala area were spayed and neutered at no cost to their owners. Hopefully we will see a big reduction in the number of puppies coming from this area in the future.



Volunteers and staff



The USPCA has ten paid staff members: a manager, deputy manager/clinic assistant, vet, six caretakers and one night security guard.

Many, many wonderful volunteers gave their time and skills to help the USPCA serve animals in need during 2020.

From volunteers who come to the shelter on a regular basis to help with animal

care and rescues to those coming for a day as part of their holiday or to celebrate a special occasion, we appreciate all help and support. This year on Christmas day we welcomed several families who came to walk the dogs and feed the puppies and kittens.

Right: A group of volunteers who came to the shelter on Christmas Day



All adult shelter animals are spayed or neutered before adoption, and with so many new animals arriving at the shelter each day it can be a challenge to keep up. We were therefore very lucky to have the services of volunteer vet Dr Dickson of Makerere University and his students at the shelter who helped us prepare animals for adoption by performing their surgeries (*photo left*).



Thank you to everyone who has given their time to the USPCA over the past year. We are very fortunate to have a number of passionate volunteers who support us with such a wide range of tasks, both hands on at the shelter and also behind the scenes with administration, finance, communication and many other important roles.

Donors and fundraising



A huge thank you to Animal-Kind International, Café Javas, and 2-4-Life project for their ongoing support to the USPCA. Year after year their unwavering financial and in-kind support enables The Haven to run and we are extremely grateful to them. One of our new supporters this year is Southside Farmer’s Market.

We received many cash and in-kind donations from supporters and local businesses over the course of the year. Commonly donated much needed items included dog and cat food, kitten and puppy formula, newspapers and blankets.

Left: Many thanks to local business Ranch for their donation of meat for the dogs at the shelter.

In April 2020 we launched a new fundraising initiative to allow our supporters to make an annual commitment by supporting animals in our care. Kennel sponsorship has proved to be a great way for individuals, families, schools, companies and organisations to become more involved in our work and we appreciate greatly the response to the kennel sponsorship drive with 13 of the 20 kennels being sponsored.

A number of the sponsors were already long term supporters of the USPCA, others were individuals and families who had adopted from the USPCA previously and saw kennel sponsorship as a way of giving back to the USPCA. Sponsorships have been made in memory of loved ones and as a way for families who have adopted beloved pets from the shelter to contribute to the work of USPCA.



Right: Kenya kennel, kindly sponsored by local business Karuna Yoga Journeys.

As of December 2020, our dedicated kennel sponsors were:

<i>Kennel</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Germany	Miles Sedgwick and family, on behalf of their USPCA rescue dog Rita.
UK	Catie Dupont
Kenya	Karuna Yoga Journeys
Gulu	Susan Whiteford, in memory of Derek
Kampala	Petra and Jita
Arua	2-4-Life Project
Adoki	Faith Mwesigye

<i>Kennel</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Jinja	Andrea Johannes and family, on behalf of their rescue dog Jinja Scharlau and his brother Winston Waldau.
Spain	Nina's Home
Garuga	Shiv, Vinay and Arti in memory of Snowy
Nile	Punit Parekh
White House	The Torrington Family
Cat House	Café Javas (who provide fish trimmings) plus an anonymous donor who covers the other running costs.

The Future

A priority for the USPCA is to secure land upon which to build a new shelter. The Haven has been in its current location in a rented property since 2007. Since then the surrounding area has become increasingly developed to such an extent as to include the construction of a newly-completed block of expensive modern apartments directly opposite the entrance to The Haven. We are extremely concerned that the noise from the shelter animals will draw complaints from the new residents and that we will be forced to vacate the premises.

In addition, we have outgrown our current facilities and require more space to ensure our animals can be housed in less crowded conditions and dogs can be exercised without having to be taken out on the road. We envisage having a purpose-built facility where we can become a centre of excellence for animal welfare education, rehoming and shelter management whereby others from across the continent can learn from our example. To do this we require a minimum of a one-acre plot on the outskirts of Kampala after which we can seek funding for construction to begin. To raise money to purchase land, our Partner Organization, Animal-Kind International, has been running a fundraising campaign on GlobalGiving, a crowdfunding site that reaches people all over the world.

Thank you!

2020 was a difficult year for everyone, worldwide. Many, many people were badly impacted financially and this meant that donations to animal rescue organisations declined.

We feel very blessed to have such wonderful and loyal supporters around the world that, even though they may have been struggling themselves, kept answering our pleas for support and continued their long-standing financial and in-kind support to us.

The USPCA community is a truly wonderful group of people. Your support and solidarity in 2020 helped to motivate and spur us on, even during the most difficult weeks and months.

Words are not enough to express our appreciation- but thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, on behalf of all staff, volunteers and most importantly animals at the USPCA.

