



USPCA Annual Report - 2025

Welcome to the 2025 annual report!

The Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (USPCA) is a non-profit animal welfare organisation established in 1997 to respond to the immediate needs of abandoned, stray, and sick animals whilst simultaneously tackling the root causes of the large population of strays and the high incidence of cruelty in Uganda. The USPCA (the “Society”) is registered with the Uganda Registration Services Board (URSB) as an Association. The Vision of the USPCA is to create a society which is well informed about the basic needs and care of animals and strives to meet them responsibly.

We work with communities and schools to support a healthier pet population. The USPCA runs two animal shelters, the original shelter, called the Haven, and a shelter at our new location, not yet open to the public. At these two shelters, which receive animals from across the country, cats and dogs are rehabilitated, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and treated with anti-parasite medicines before being rehomed. Many animals enter the Haven in need of significant physical and emotional rehabilitation.

During 2025, our small team of dedicated staff carried out their work at the shelters, feeding and providing clean water, cleaning kennels, socialising the cats and dogs, and welcoming visitors. Volunteers provided much-needed support and in 2025, we were grateful for the volunteer vets, foster families, and those who stopped by one time or on a continuing basis to give our animals love, walks, shampoos, and grooming. Many locals and overseas visitors brought donations of pet food, shelter supplies, and vet supplies to the Haven.

Some of the most noteworthy updates of 2025 are:

- **We received the Certificate of Approval from the National Environmental Management Authority.** NEMA had denied our Project Brief (Environmental and Social Impact Statement), having claimed, based on outdated maps, that the entire area at the new shelter site was a wetland. After we appealed NEMA's denial, a NEMA team visited the new USPCA shelter site and reversed their decision. The Certificate of Approval allows us to resume construction at the new shelter location pending Kajjansi Town Council approval.
- **Ms Jackline Bako completed her first full year in charge of shelter operations at the two USPCA sites,** having previously served for many years as Assistant to both the General Manager and the shelter veterinarian. When by the end of 2024 they had left our employment, Jackie seamlessly stepped in to supervise the work at the shelter as well as manage the vaccination and spay/neuter programmes.
- **We are grateful and were very lucky to have the ongoing support of local vets who volunteered at the USPCA shelters** to spay and neuter, conduct health checks, and provide care for our shelters' cats and dogs. Working alongside the USPCA staff, Dr. Brian Nabimanya, Dr. Lewis Ashabahebwa, Dr. Luzige Mark (January to February), and Dr. Alfred (September to December) gave their time and skills to the USPCA to make sure our pets remained healthy.

We faced several challenges in 2025:

- **Many expatriates left Uganda** when the US Agency for International Development shut down and several other countries followed suit, cutting back their development staff. Many of these departing expats had served as volunteers and had been valuable advocates for and donors to the USPCA.
- **We had no USPCA-dedicated vehicle in 2025** and had to rely on a few willing boda drivers and private individuals to transport animals in need of rescue. During the year, we researched a variety of vehicle types that would satisfy the USPCA's needs, whilst

providing the necessary manoeuvrability for Kampala-Entebbe metro area traffic jams. We decided that a motorbike would best serve our purposes and we hope to procure one in 2026.

- **The “Dog Rescue Scam”** continues to take time and attention away from our regular responsibilities and, worse, makes raising funds for the USPCA more difficult. The scams – social media postings falsely claiming to rescue dogs and, more recently, cats and even rabbits, and asking for donations, whilst in some cases, inflicting harm, not providing food, and encouraging pregnancies – have brought worldwide attention to Uganda, resulting in widespread mistrust of even the legitimate animal welfare organisations in the country, and a reduction in donations to those rescue centres. Also, replying to people who contact us about the scam takes considerable volunteer time – time that could be better spent directly supporting the USPCA. In 2025, to help raise visibility of the ongoing scam, we joined a coalition of other legitimate animal welfare organisations working in Uganda, the Animal Welfare Alliance of Uganda (AWAU).
- **Lack of a dedicated quarantine area at the Haven.** A separate space for quarantine is allotted to sick animals, mamas with pups or kittens, and orphaned kittens and puppies. When quarantine space is needed, we are forced to use a storage area at the shelter or set aside a kennel for quarantine. With the high number of intakes and limited space at the Haven, every kennel for rescued animals is a valuable space and moving animals around to arrange for quarantine areas is stressful on animals and the staff. As it was in 2024, the lack of dedicated quarantine space remains a challenge at the Haven shelter.

Our Annual Report is a glimpse into all we’ve done in 2025. Those of you who follow our social media pages and check our website know that we’ve done so much more than what can be summarised here. If you don’t yet follow us, we invite you to join the USPCA.

The USPCA Shelter: Overview

We currently have two shelter locations, the old site in Mbuya, also known as the Haven, and the new shelter site at Ssekiwunga, near Kajjansi-Kitende, Wakiso District. The USPCA provides sanctuary for dogs and cats whilst they await adoption, or if not adopted, they have a permanent home with the USPCA.

The majority of USPCA animals and staff are still at our old location in Mbuya. During 2025, between our two locations, on average we cared for 250 cats and dogs, all of whom will be moved to the new site when construction is complete and the Mbuya site can be shut down.



At the Mbuya location, about 40 cats share a large outdoor cat enclosure [photo, above: The USPCA cattery, December 2025] and an overflow area has been set up to hold additional rescued cats. Dogs are housed in communal kennels [photo below] with anywhere from a few to 10 dogs per kennel.



At the end of 2025, the new site, currently not open to the public, held 32 dogs. It is not yet set up to house cats. Of the eight kennels at the new site, one is left vacant for use as a sick bay for any dog that needs to be isolated from the others and another as the 'clinic' for the visiting vet team. Dogs that have been at the Mbuya shelter for a particularly long time are the ones prioritised for transfer to the new site to give them a spacious, less stressful experience.

At the end of 2025, the USPCA had 254 residents at the two shelters [see table for breakdown].

NUMBER OF ANIMALS AT THE SHELTER AT THE END OF 2025		
ADULT DOGS	149	
PUPPIES UNDER ONE YEAR	43	
NEONATAL PUPPIES	0	
	TOTAL	192
ADULT CATS	46	
KITTENS UNDER ONE YEAR	10	
NEONATAL KITTENS	6	
	TOTAL	62
TOTAL		254

During 2025, the Mbuya shelter was open to visitors every day of the week and potential adopters and other visitors dropped by daily. We promoted adoption via our website and social media sites, Facebook and Instagram.

Among the shelter’s long-term residents – those who have been repeatedly overlooked by adopters – many are animals with disabilities or behavioural issues or have scars or disfigurements from difficult lives on the streets. All animals are precious to us, regardless of how they look or behave. If possible, we try to place long-stay residents with foster families to give them a break from shelter life. And although a life at the shelter may not be ideal, we are happy to be able to offer this is an option for those who need it, whilst maintaining hope for the perfect adopters to come along for each of the lives we care for.



Animal Rescue

Despite the lack of a dedicated USPCA vehicle, we rescued 604 cats and dogs in 2025, about 230 more than in 2024. For most rescues, we used boda drivers (motorbike taxis) who we know well and are willing to help us. Many individuals contacted the USPCA about animals in need of rescue and some of our supporters were willing and able to transport an animal to the shelter. The table below lists animals rescued in 2025, including those surrendered by owner.

MONTHS	RESCUED ADULT DOGS	2025 PUPPIES < 1 YEAR	NEONATAL PUPPIES*	ADULT CATS	KITTENS < 1 YEAR	NEONATAL KITTENS*	TOTAL
JANUARY	9	4	13	6	4	8	44
FEBRUARY	8	17	13	5	6	9	58
MARCH	6	6	19	8	5	9	53
APRIL	6	3	2	5	2	8	26
MAY	11	16	17	5	3	9	61
JUNE	4	14	21	8	5	13	65
JULY	13	7	8	6	2	4	40
AUGUST	15	5	18	5	2	4	49
SEPTEMBER	9	11	22	2	7	8	59
OCTOBER	11	10	24	5	10	13	73
NOVEMBER	11	13	2	2	16	8	52
DECEMBER	4	5	0	4	8	3	24
TOTAL	107	111	159	61	70	96	604

**[Note to table on previous page: Arrivals of neonatal animals are registered differently from other rescued animals. Many of the puppies and kittens brought to the shelter are orphans, and sadly, not all survive these crucial early weeks of life, so the fatality rate is quite high.]*

As is usual, more dogs than cats were rescued in 2025 with a total of 377 dogs compared to 277 cats. As in previous years, puppies were the most common animal rescued, especially neonatal puppies (159). In cases where neonatal animals were rescued without their mothers, we searched for foster homes where intensive care could be provided for these very young orphans.

When a rescued dog or cat is first brought into the shelter, the animal is given a general health-check at our clinic and if he or she is unwell or is injured, the animal will be seen by one of our volunteer vets. If the animal is healthy and is thought to be able to fit in with the other shelter residents, the rescued animal will remain at the Mbuya site and enter the adoption programme.

If a dog appears unable to adjust to a shelter environment and needs further socialisation and confidence building, it may be transferred to the new site (where, with far fewer dogs, the staff can more easily provide one-on-one attention) or to a foster home, if one can be found. For shy cats which need to be socialised before entering the general population at the shelter, the staff have a few options of quiet spaces at the Haven.



Sadly, in a shelter environment, especially with so many long-stay animals, some become terminally ill and will die. Many of the cats and dogs we rescued in 2025 required significant vet care, including treatment for serious cases of mange and injuries, some requiring amputation. Several cats and dogs were already so badly injured or sick when rescued that we were unable to help them. We always try to make an animal as comfortable as possible, and provide the best, loving care. Still, in 2025, 84 cats and dogs died at the shelter. We receive calls at all times of the day and night from members of the public who are concerned about animals. We never turn an animal away.

[photo, left: This tiny kitten tried to find a safe refuge during a heavy rainstorm. Thankfully a caring person

notified the USPCA and we sent our team to rescue him.]

Rehoming

We aim to find permanent homes for all adoptable cats and dogs at the shelter and do not have a time limit on how long animals can stay, offering life-long care to those that need it. All animals

are vaccinated and de-parasitised before being rehomed and if old enough, spayed or neutered. If too young at the time of adoption the new owner is required to return the animal for spay or neuter at 6 months of age.

Fourteen more animals were adopted from the USPCA in 2025 than in 2024, but still the number is far lower than we would like, and significantly lower than intakes. [See table below]

MONTHS	ADOPTIONS		2025		TOTAL
	ADULT DOGS	PUPPIES	ADULT CATS	KITTENS	
JANUARY	1	1	2	1	5
FEBRUARY	2	2	2	3	9
MARCH	6	0	0	2	8
APRIL	6	0	1	2	9
MAY	3	0	3	0	6
JUNE	6	0	6	0	12
JULY	6	0	4	0	10
AUGUST	2	0	1	0	3
SEPTEMBER	4	0	0	0	4
OCTOBER	3	0	1	2	6
NOVEMBER	12	2	2	0	16
DECEMBER	4	4	2	0	10
TOTAL	55	9	24	10	98



[photo, left: This lucky kitten was adopted to a home where he will be well cared for and loved, January 2025]

When a prospective adopter visits the USPCA shelter, a staff member takes the individual on a tour of the shelter and introduces the adoptable pets. They discuss the personalities of the different animals and what is involved in caring for a dog, cat, puppy, or kitten. Prior to adoption, an application form is completed, and a staff member conducts a one-on-one interview to help ensure that a good match is made, that the adopter understands his responsibilities, and that the pet is being placed in the best possible environment.

Fostering

The shelter is a very busy place and it is not always possible to provide extra care and attention to animals that need it. We rely on a small group of volunteers to foster the most vulnerable animals. The very young, especially the neonatal animals (with a total of 255 rescued in 2025, including the two in the photo [right] found without their mother, in April 2025), are at the top of the priority list for fostering as they require round-the-clock care. We also try to find foster homes for animals with disabilities, those that are very shy and are not thriving in the shelter environment, those that require additional socialisation support, and animals with recurring health issues needing closer supervision and regular medication.



We try to prioritise our long-stay residents as well, since they may have spent years at the shelter and have been repeatedly overlooked for adoption. Placing them in a foster home provides an opportunity for carers to get to know an animal's personality very well and take great photos in a home environment, making the animal's adoption advertisement very personal and more likely to be successful.

The USPCA desperately needs more foster homes!

Community Outreach and Animal Welfare Education

In 2025, as in the previous year, we conducted outreach clinics and provided services to the local community, particularly those people living in the vicinity of the shelter in Mbuya. The continuous stream of local kids and adults arriving at the USPCA's gate along with their cats and/or dogs is a good sign that we are appreciated as part of the community and provide much-needed services.

For those who are unable to afford a private vet, we give vaccinations and de-parasitise pets at minimal cost and, when a vet is available, sterilise community cats and dogs. Last year, we helped 570 pets belonging to families in our local community get vaccinated and de-wormed, and 50 were sterilised [see table below]. In 2026, we hope to increase the number sterilised to reduce the incidence of unwanted litters.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

	VACCINATIONS AND DEWORMING Dogs & Cats	SPAY AND NEUTER	SCHOOL VISITS WELFARE EDUCATION
JANUARY	11	5	1
FEBRUARY	6	0	1
MARCH	14	0	3
APRIL	145	0	1
MAY	15	0	1
JUNE	4	0	1
JULY	28	36	1
AUGUST	8	0	2
SEPTEMBER	246	1	0
OCTOBER	56	0	0
NOVEMBER	21	2	1
DECEMBER	16	6	1
TOTAL	570	50	13

All local children who stopped by the shelter (adults are always welcome too!) were given a tour of the kennels and an animal welfare education session by our knowledgeable staff, as this group [pictured below] received.



Sometimes the USPCA has a chance to go beyond Kampala-Entebbe, as they did in October when they held a community day in Masaka. On October 18, we treated essentially all the dogs and cats in one village in Masaka with a total of 56 animals vaccinated against rabies and de-wormed. [See photos, next page]



We celebrated World Rabies Day (September 28) over a period of five days in September by inviting local community members to visit the Haven with their pets for free rabies vaccinations and de-worming and, for the pets' families, receive animal welfare education. As always, it was a very popular event! [see *photo, next page*]



Volunteers and Staff

The work at the two USPCA shelters was undertaken by a small team of dedicated staff and daily helpers [pictured below - Shelter Manager, Jackie Bako, not shown]



Many wonderful volunteers also gave their time and skills to help the USPCA during 2025 – from those who come to the shelter on a regular basis to help with animal care and rescues, to those spending a day as part of their holiday or to celebrate a special occasion. We appreciate all help and support.



[left: Our youngest volunteer in 2025]

Volunteers walked dogs, played with kittens and socialised cats and puppies, and helped USPCA staff with feeding animals and cleaning pens. Several international volunteers visited the shelter, some for one day and others for longer term internships.

At the end of 2024, after the USPCA’s full time vet left, we had accumulated a large backlog of ‘unfixed’ dogs and cats at the shelter. The USPCA staff kept unsterilised females and males separated, but this created some difficulties – for humans and animals alike! But by early 2025, thanks to the volunteer vets, Drs. Lewis and Brian [pictured below, at work in the clinic], we had largely caught up with spay/neuter surgeries of shelter animals and we are proud to report that throughout 2025 we were able to maintain that level.



	# OF VOLUNTEERS	# OF VET VOLUNTEERS
JANUARY	3	3
FABUARY	3	2
MARCH	7	2
APRIL	1	4
MAY	3	2
JUNE	1	2
JULY	3	1
AUGUST	7	2
SEPTEMBER	2	2
OCTOBER	6	2
NOVEMBER	2	2
DECEMBER	2	2
TOTAL	38	26

Donors and Fundraising

Our Partner Organisation, **Animal-Kind International**, in the United States, raises funds to cover our shelter operations. In 2025, Animal-Kind International’s support consisted of: the AKI-USPCA Pet Food Fund (part of AKI’s Elaine Law Memorial Pet Food Fund) which covered the cost of cat and dog food (other than what was donated locally and through kennel sponsorships, including sponsorships through AKI); in addition to which funds for staff salaries, spay/neuter of the shelter animals, transport costs for rescue of cats and dogs, and other shelter running costs.

A huge thank you to Animal-Kind International for their ongoing support to the USPCA. Year after year their unwavering financial and in-kind support enables the Haven to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome hundreds of dogs and cats, and we are extremely grateful to them. Please see our page on the AKI website: <https://www.animal-kind.org/uganda>

Cafe Javas, a local chain of eateries [<https://cafejavas.co.ug/user/home>], has been a long-time supporter of the USPCA. They donate fish trimmings for our kitties. We thank them for their dedication to the USPCA and support for animal welfare in Uganda.

Every year, we receive more **in-kind donations** locally and we are grateful for this show of support. In-kind donations in 2025 included dog and cat food and treats, cleaning products, shampoo and other supplies for our dogs and cats, medicines, dog beds, kitten and puppy formula, newspapers, towels, and more.

We are grateful for the support of **individual donors**, including the generous donation of a lamp for our surgery [*see photo, right*] and another who offered a matching gift through Animal-Kind International for new dog boxes. Between Animal-Kind International and the USPCA, we raised enough to achieve the full match, which funded fabrication and transport to the shelter of new dog boxes and one for the cattery [*see photo below*].



In 2020 we launched **Kennel Sponsorships**, a fundraising initiative to allow supporters to make annual commitments to animals in our care. Kennel sponsorships have proven to be a great way for individuals, families, schools, companies, and organisations to become more involved in our work.

Many of the sponsors are long-term supporters of the USPCA. Some are individuals and families who had adopted from the USPCA previously and view kennel sponsorship as a way of continuing to give back to the USPCA, further contributing to the USPCA’s work. Sponsorships have been made in memory of beloved pets and in honour of current pets. The sponsored kennels in 2025 were:

<i>Kennel</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
<u>The Haven-Mbuya site</u>	
Germany	Sponsored
Kampala	Sponsored
Arua	Sponsored
Malawi	Sponsored
Mbale	Sponsored
Brazil	Sponsored
India	Sponsored
Cattery	Sponsored
Kenya	
Spain	
Garuga	
White House	
Uganda	
Tanzania	
Italy	
Sudan	
Canada	
Austria	
<u>New Shelter Site</u>	
Adoki	Sponsored
Jinja	Sponsored
USA	
UK	
Gulu	
Nile	

If you would like to learn more about our kennel sponsorship program, please see our website, <https://www.uganda-sPCA.org/sponsor-a-kennel>, and if you would like to sponsor a kennel, do get in touch!

Thank You!

We aim to treat every rescued animal and shelter resident as we would treat our own pet. That means we want each cat and dog in our care to feel comfortable, safe, and loved.

Sometimes we rescue an animal that really tugs at our heart strings. That was the case with this older girl [*photo, below*], who was discarded by her owner and sent to the USPCA shelter after becoming blind. When we asked, our USPCA friends answered the call (we received several offers!), and she was placed with a foster family, where she has a companion, a garden, and all the love she needs to live a long and happy life.

It's animals like this that remind us, each and every day, why we do what we do. And it's cases like this that remind us how blessed we are to have you, our loyal supporters around the world, lifting us up, enabling the rescues we make, the care we give, answering our pleas.



The USPCA community is a truly wonderful group of people. Your support and solidarity in 2025 helped to motivate and spur us on, even during the most difficult weeks and months. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, on behalf of all staff, volunteers, and most importantly, the animals at the USPCA.