



CLAY COUNTY ANIMAL RESCUE
&
EDUCATION CENTER

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



MIKE & VALOR



BEAR



COSTELLO

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



I. ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

- ABOUT CCARE - 2
- ORGANIZATIONAL TREE - 3
- OUR PARTNERS - 4
- OUTREACH & MARKETING - 5
- AWARDS & RECOGNITION - 6

II. PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS

- INTAKE SUMMARY - 7
- OUTCOME SUMMARY - 8
- IMPACT THROUGH THE YEARS - 9
- TNR PROGRAM - 10
- VOLUNTEERS & FOSTERING - 11

III. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- SUPPORT & REVENUE - 12
- FUNDRAISING - 13
- OPERATING EXPENSES - 14
- 2025 MEDICAL - 15
- 2025 FINANCIALS - 16
- FUTURE GOALS - 17



A **NOTE** FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together this year. Through thoughtful planning and responsible stewardship, CCARE closed the year in a position of financial stability while continuing to deliver high-quality, lifesaving care. We've maintained a full, dedicated staff for nearly two years and welcomed an ever-growing group of volunteers who support both our shelter dogs and our TNR efforts. I'm especially proud that we completed another year without disease transmission in the shelter and earned an outstanding score during our most recent state inspection. These successes reflect the commitment, teamwork, and care that define CCARE every day. As we look ahead to 2026, we are well-positioned to build on this strong foundation through sustainable funding, strategic growth, and continued excellence in animal care.

woof!



John Rieb Jr.

ALL ABOUT CCARE

Service Area: Clay County & Beyond
Population Served: 7,969+

Clay County Animal Rescue & Education Center, Inc. (CCARE) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization driven by dedicated staff and volunteers with a shared passion for helping animals in need. We are proud to be a nationally recognized **No-Kill Facility**, and our mission is to rescue, care for, and find loving, responsible forever homes for homeless dogs.

Beyond rescue, we're committed to educating our community about compassion and respect for all animal life. We promote the importance of spaying and neutering, especially for feral animals, to help reduce overpopulation and improve the well-being of animals in our area.

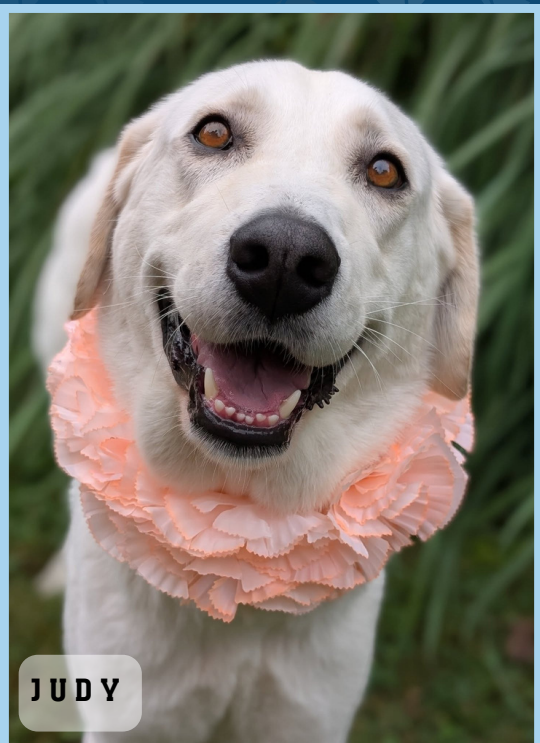
Since opening our doors on March 1, 2016, CCARE has gone beyond the walls of our shelter to build a strong network of knowledgeable, experienced, and caring individuals who work together to make a lasting difference for dogs and the people who love them.

At this time, CCARE focuses exclusively on the rescue and adoption of dogs; however, we look forward to one day expanding our resources and facilities to provide the same level of care and support for cats in our community.

OUR MISSION

The Clay County Animal Rescue & Education Center (CCARE) is an animal care facility dedicated to improving the lives of companion animals in our communities and finding permanent and loving adoptive homes for the dogs in our care. We provide a safe haven for animals in transition, serve as advocates for them and their people, work to end overpopulation and educate the public about compassion and responsibility towards all animals.

CCARE strives to be a No-Kill facility where all incoming animals are evaluated, medically treated, rehabilitated when needed and euthanized only out of necessity based on the animal's quality of life needs.



JUDY

ORGANIZATIONAL TREE

Board of Directors

Janel Michaud
President

Preston Rook
Vice President

Christine Murchison
Secretary/TNR

Sandy Fox
Treasurer

Dr. Eva Standlea
Veterinarian

George Murchison
TNR/Maintenance

Patricia Halstead
Grants/Publicity

Shaley Johnson
**Advertising/
Website**

Julie Mohn
Events/Fundraising

John Rieb Jr.
Executive Director

Volunteers

Kim Harding
**Lead Animal
Welfare Associate**

Taunisha Dixon
**Animal Welfare
Associate**

Brenda Case
**Animal Welfare
Associate**

**TEAM
WORK**



From board meetings to countless fundraisers to the daily work at the shelter, it takes an incredible team to make it all happen. Our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers each bring unique skills, dedication, and heart to everything they do. Through challenges big and small, we support one another, give our time and energy freely, and, most importantly, we always find a way.



OUR PARTNERS

CCARE is deeply grateful for the many partners who make our mission possible.

Community Partners

We work hand-in-hand with local businesses, community organizations, nursing facilities, youth groups, and schools throughout Clay County. Their involvement strengthens our programs and helps us build a more compassionate community for animals and people alike.

Government & Municipal Partners

We appreciate the continued support of the Clay Center City Council, Clay County Commissioners, Clay Center Police and Sheriff's Departments, and the Clay County District Court, as well as the city councils and animal control officers in our partner municipalities.

Animal Welfare & Veterinary Partners

Our network of partner rescues, shelters, and humane societies extends across the region, along with our valued veterinary partners at Court Street Veterinary Clinic, Abilene Animal Hospital, and the Kansas State University Department of Veterinary Medicine. We are also grateful to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Emergency Management, and the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation for their ongoing guidance and collaboration.

Corporate & Media Partners

Generous support from Petco, PetSmart, Bissell Pet Foundation, and Miranda Lambert's MuttNation Foundation helps us continue our lifesaving work. We also thank our local media partners—KCLY Radio, The Regional News, The Dispatch, KSNT TV, and FOX43 TV—for helping us share our mission and success stories.



COMMUNITY AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Many local schools and youth organizations visit CCARE for hands-on educational experiences, including reading to dogs, making enrichment treats, and helping with socialization. We also provide animal education programs directly in the schools, where our staff (and occasionally our canine ambassadors) visit classrooms to teach students about responsible pet care, animal welfare, and compassion. In addition to youth-focused outreach, CCARE offers community education opportunities throughout Clay County, helping residents learn more about pet safety, responsible ownership, and the importance of spay and neuter.

OUTREACH & MARKETING

CCARE is committed not only to caring for animals within our walls, but also to educating and engaging the community. Through digital outreach, school and community programs, local media partnerships, and consistent public communication, we work to increase awareness, encourage adoptions, promote responsible pet ownership, and connect residents to the services we provide.



Where People See Our Dogs

- ccareinc.org
- Facebook and Social Media Platforms
- PetFinder
- Petco and PetSmart partner listings
- Flyers and posters around Clay County
- Local newspapers and community bulletins
- Word-of-mouth and partner referrals



- Our digital presence continues to grow, with the CCARE Facebook page reaching an average of more than 100,000 views every month.
- Our commitment to exceptional animal care is reflected in our 4.8-star Google rating across 47 public reviews as of December 2025.

We maintain an active online presence to ensure adoptable animals and program updates reach the community in real time. Social media remains one of our strongest outreach tools, connecting us with potential adopters, donors, volunteers, and supporters across Clay County. CCARE uses PetPoint shelter software to track animal history, medical care, outcomes, and adoption visibility across online platforms.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Best Friends Animal Society

- No-Kill Shelter Status 2025



GROW Clay County 2025 Award Nominations

- Business of the Year - CCARE
- Best Customer Service - CCARE
- Best Non Profit/Government Agency - CCARE
- Employee of the Year - John Rieb & Kim Harding
- Community Catalyst of the Year - Patricia Halstead (Winner)



To the Stars Kansas Business Awards

- Healthcare/Nonprofit Merit Award (Nominee)



Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation

- \$1,000.00 Grant Winner (Spay & Neuter Services)



CCARE is honored to have received meaningful recognition this year, including No-Kill status from Best Friends Animal Society, multiple nominations at the Grow Clay County Awards, and a Merit Award from the To The Stars Kansas Business Awards. We also received a \$1,000 grant from the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation. We are grateful for every award and nomination, as each reflects the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters.

INTAKE SUMMARY

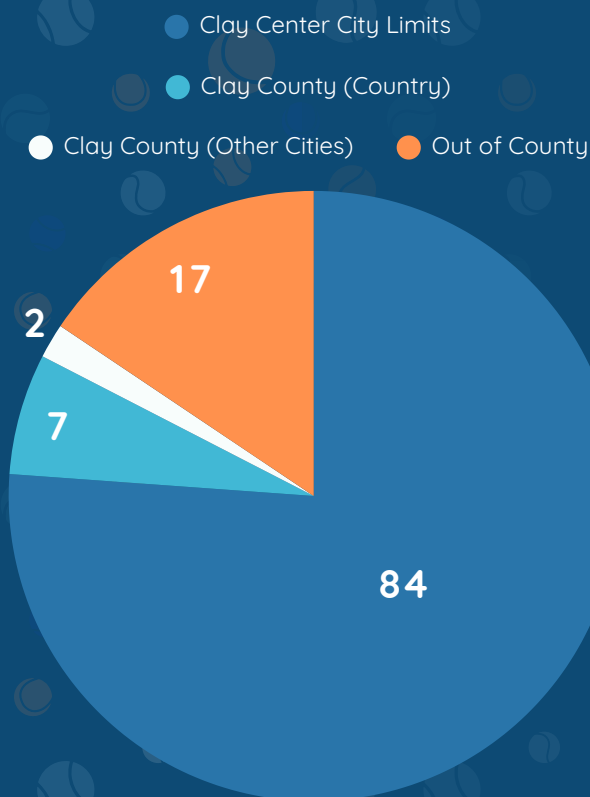
Intake Type	Number	Percentage
Stray	80	72.7%
Owner Surrender	19	17.3%
Transfer	8	7.3%
Return	3	2.7%
Total	110	



BY JURISDICTION

Strays and surrendered dogs from Clay County are always prioritized at CCARE. This is because of the funding and support provided by Clay County, the City of Clay Center, and our partner municipalities within the county. The majority of stray and relinquished pets come from within the Clay Center city limits due to CCARE's central location. Our shelter often sees higher intake numbers than expected for a community of our size, largely because many surrounding areas lack their own animal shelters. As a result, unwanted or stray animals from neighboring communities are sometimes abandoned or brought into areas that do have established shelter services.

Per Kansas state law, every stray entering CCARE is placed on a mandatory three-day hold before any adoption processing can begin. During this time, we actively work to locate the owner while ensuring the dog receives safe and appropriate care.



OUTCOME SUMMARY



PETIE



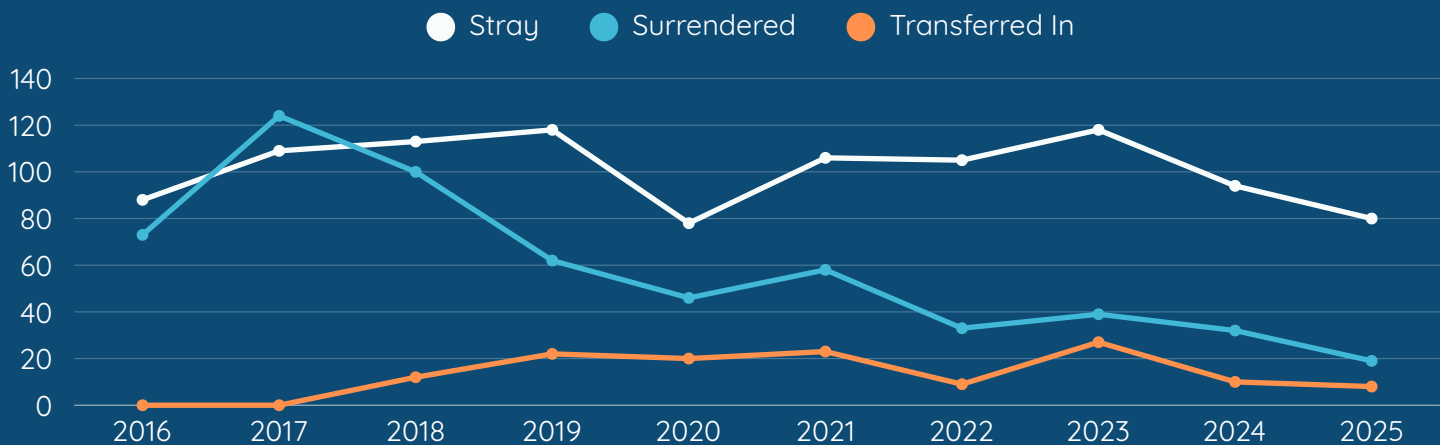
HARPER

Outcome Type	Number	Percentage
Adopted	49	44.5%
Reclaimed	55	50%
Transferred	5	4.5%
Died in Care	1	0.9%
Total	110	

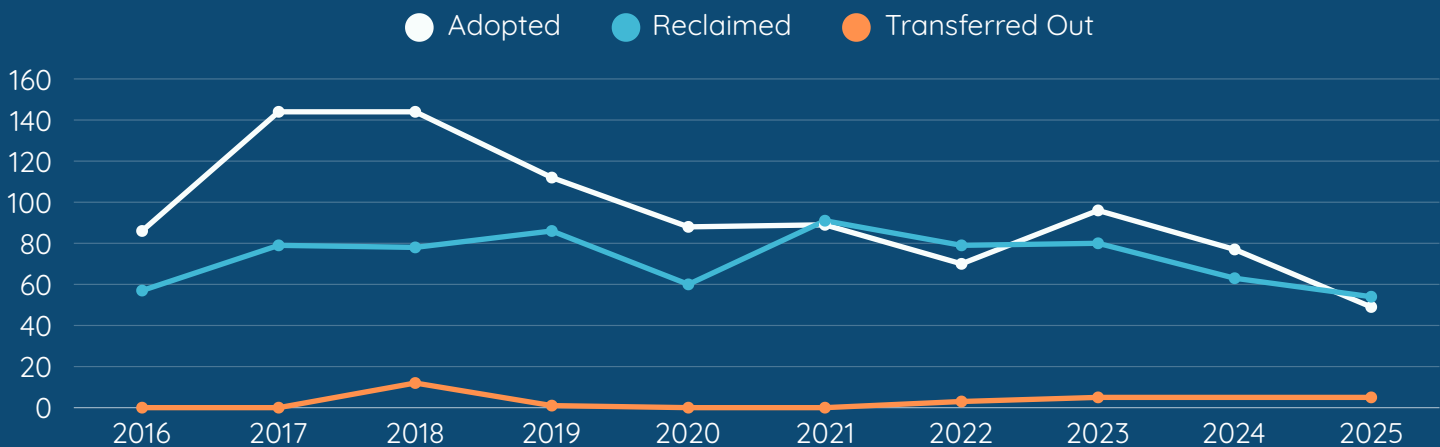
CCARE charges standard service fees to help support the cost of care and shelter operations. Adoption fees range from \$50-\$175, surrender fees from \$50-\$75, and reclaim fees from \$30-\$50.

Shelter Metrics	Number / Percentage	Definition
Length of Stay	27.3 Days	Measures the average number of days an animal spends in shelter care before adoption, transfer, or other outcome. National Average is <30 days.
Reclaim Rate	68.8%	The percentage of stray animals reunited with their owners. National average is 50% or above.
Adoption Return Rate	6.1%	Measures how many adopted animals are returned to the shelter. National average is <10%.
Live Release Rate	99.1%	Measures the percentage of animals that leave the shelter alive. National average is 90% or higher.

OUR IMPACT THROUGH THE YEARS



2016 - 2025 Total Intakes: 1,726



2016 - 2025 Total Outcomes: 1,708



FINNICK

Over the past several years, our intake and outcome numbers have gradually declined, reflecting capacity limits rather than reduced community need. As a small shelter with a fixed number of kennels, intake is carefully managed, and we consistently maintain a waiting list for owner surrenders. At the same time, a high percentage of stray animals are successfully returned to their owners, which naturally reduces the number of animals needing adoption. Together, these factors result in lower overall volume while maintaining excellent animal welfare and live outcome rates.

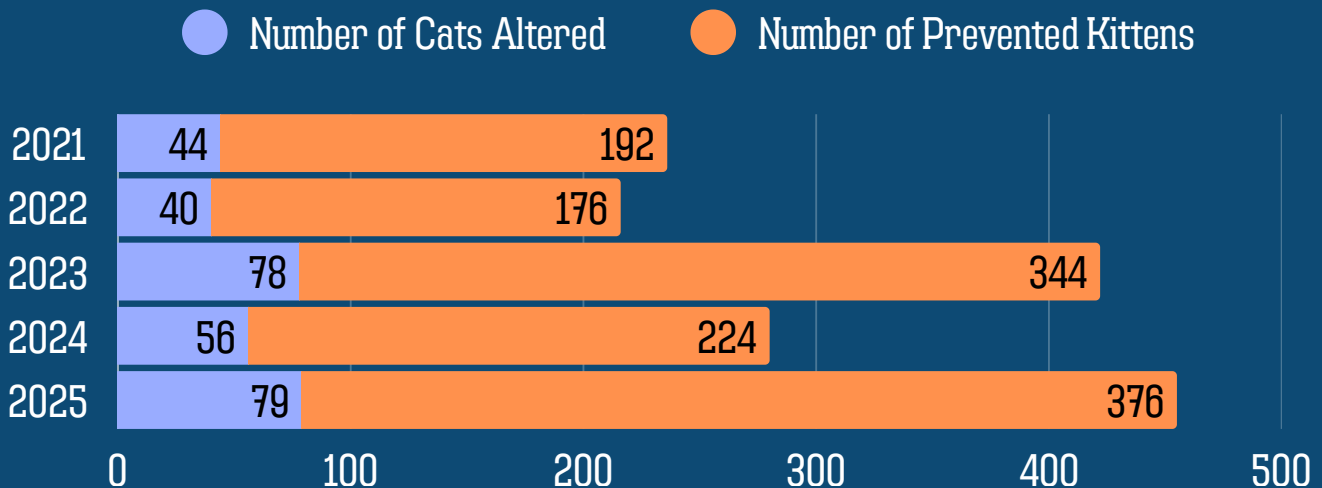
TNR PROGRAM



Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) has proven to be an effective and humane way to reduce free-roaming cat populations in Clay County. Through this program, healthy community cats are safely trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, and returned to their original location. TNR programs reduce nuisance behaviors, lower shelter intake pressure, and improve public health outcomes.

All surgeries for TNR cats are performed at no cost to CCARE by Kansas State University veterinary students, giving them valuable hands-on experience while helping our community. Each cat's left ear is humanely tipped under anesthesia to show it has been sterilized and cannot reproduce.

If you are interested in finding out more ways to help, or if you have information on community cats in your neighborhood, please **contact our TNR hotline at 785-630-5656**.



*Kitten estimate based on standard reproduction assumptions.

VOLUNTEERS AND FOSTERING

Number of Volunteers	Number of Hours Volunteered (2025)	Number of Hours Volunteered Since Opening (2016)
40	2,571.90	25,393

VOLUNTEERS DONATE TIME TO ASSIST WITH:

- Dog-walking
- Laundry and dishes
- Fundraising events
- Transporting pets
- Photography
- Bathing dogs
- Assisting with adoptions
- Training
- Animal enrichment
- Sorting donations
- Receiving donations
- Making repairs
- Shoveling snow
- Shooting videos
- Promoting adoptable pets
- Admin & Data Entry
- Trapping cats
- Landscaping



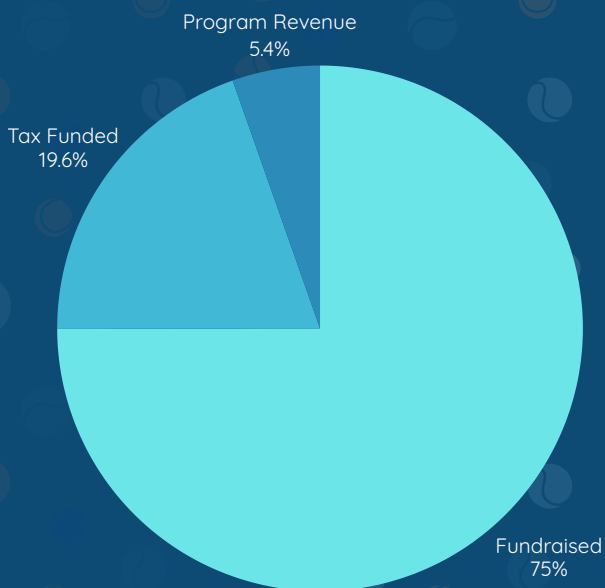
If you're unable to make a monetary donation but still want to make a difference, consider donating your time by volunteering with CCARE!

We also have a foster program that allows dogs to rest, recover, and prepare for adoption in a loving home environment. At this time, we do not have any dogs currently in foster care, but with your help, we can change that. The more foster homes we have, the more dogs we can welcome into our shelter and place into forever homes.

If you're ready to get involved, please **complete a volunteer application at ccareinc.org/volunteer** — we'd love to have you on the team!

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Fundraised (\$106,899.66)	If you've ever attended one of our events, responded to a fundraising campaign, clicked on a donation link, or contributed in honor or memory of a loved one, you're part of the incredible community that helps CCARE continue its mission each year. From one-time gifts and grants to long-term investments, every contribution, large or small, makes a real difference for the dogs in our care.
Tax Funded (\$28,000.04)	Through our partnership with the City of Clay Center and Clay County, CCARE receives public funding to provide essential animal control and sheltering services for our community. This support reflects a shared commitment to public safety, responsible pet ownership, and the humane care of animals.
Program Revenue (\$7,689.45)	When families adopt, reclaim, or seek services through CCARE, these program fees help offset the direct costs of care. While never intended to be a barrier to lifesaving services, this earned revenue supports daily operations and ensures we can continue providing safe shelter, medical care, and second chances for dogs in need.



2025 Total Income: \$142,589.15

Fundraising & Donations

Major Fundraising Events

- Gather for Good Match Day - \$16,040.96
- Bark the Halls Holiday Gala - \$15,998.86
- Clear the Shelter - \$12,875.00

Community & Ongoing Support

- \$5 Friday - \$5,739.44
- Meal Scramble at UMC - \$2,543.37
- Community & Youth Fundraisers - \$2,076.18
- Piotique Raffle - \$1,541.35
- Facebook Fundraisers - \$1,061.00
- Cookie Dough Sales - \$840.00
- Adult Egg Hunt - \$745.00
- Parade of Lights - \$644.56
- Microchip Clinic - \$400.00
- Santa Paws - \$324.00

Everyday Giving Programs

- Dillon's Rewards - \$226.87
- Wooftrax App - \$7.30

FUNDRAISING

Bark the Halls Holiday Gala



Bark the Halls was our first-ever holiday gala and with over 115 attendees, it was our biggest fundraiser of the year, featuring delicious food, drinks, and festive entertainment. Supporters participated in silent and live auctions, raffles, and games, all to raise critical funds for the animals in our care.

Additional Fundraisers and Events



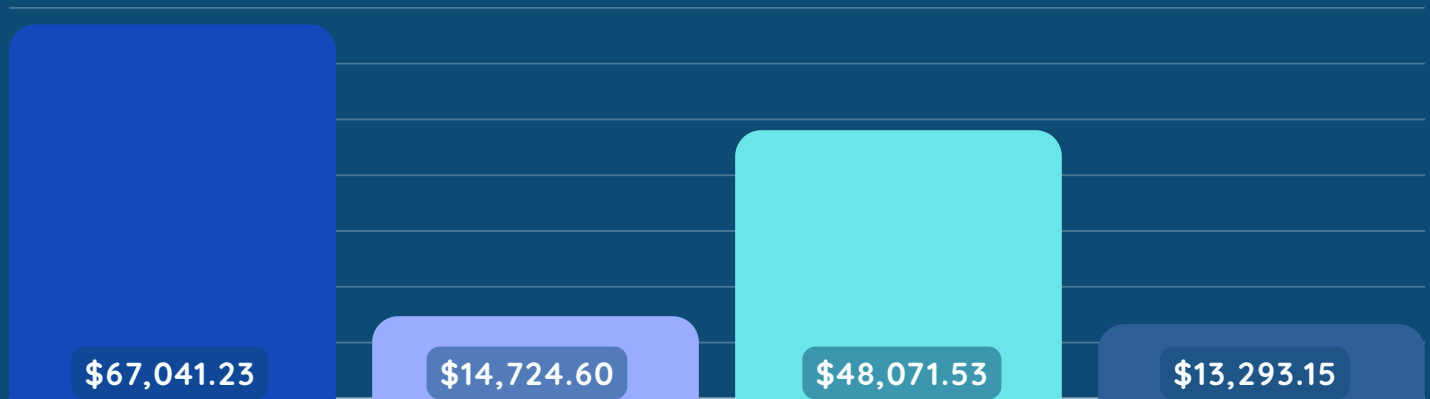
OPERATING EXPENSES

● Personnel

● Program Services

● Operations & Facilities

● Administrative & Miscellaneous



2025 Total Expenses: \$143,130.51

Personnel: Caring for animals is hands-on, heart-driven work. Personnel expenses support the dedicated staff who provide daily care, medical monitoring, enrichment, adoption support, and behind-the-scenes operations that keep the shelter running safely and compassionately.

Program Services: Program service expenses represent the core of CCARE's mission. These funds directly support food, veterinary care, spay/neuter services, disease prevention, and our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts, ensuring the animals in our care receive the treatment and attention they deserve.

Operations & Facilities: Providing a safe and welcoming environment requires ongoing investment in our facilities and infrastructure. Operations and facilities expenses cover everything from utilities and insurance to maintenance, equipment, and marketing, ensuring our shelter remains functional, compliant, and accessible to the community we serve.

Administrative & Miscellaneous: Administrative and miscellaneous expenses support the systems that keep CCARE accountable, transparent, and sustainable. These costs include financial oversight, compliance, reporting, and basic operational support—allowing us to steward resources responsibly while staying focused on lifesaving work.

MEDICAL

All dogs adopted from CCARE receive comprehensive care that includes a health exam, spay or neuter surgery, Bordetella and Distemper/Parvo vaccinations, Rabies vaccination, heartworm testing and prevention, flea and tick prevention, fecal testing, deworming treatment, and a microchip for permanent identification. The total cost for us to care for a dog from intake through adoption typically exceeds \$350.

Our Executive Director, together with the dog care team, administers all Bordetella and Distemper/Parvo vaccinations as well as microchipping for each dog. We are proud to partner with Dr. Eva Standlea and her team at Court Street Veterinary Clinic (CSVC), who provide all other veterinary services and ongoing medical support for our shelter dogs. Additional diagnostic testing may include urinalysis, skin scrapings, parvovirus, and distemper testing. Many dogs receive treatment for infections and other illnesses, while those with more serious medical conditions are referred to CSVC for advanced treatment or surgery.

CCARE also partners with the Kansas State University Veterinary team, who generously perform all spay and neuter surgeries at no cost to the shelter. When utilizing CSVC for additional medical care, we do incur fees, which are reflected under Program Services in our “Operating Expenses.”

While CCARE does not have on-site medical staff or a professional groomer, our dedicated dog care team ensures each dog is bathed, groomed, and safely cared for throughout their stay.

Rabies Vaccines Administered	47
Bordetella Vaccines Administered	53
Distemper/Parvo Vaccines Administered	55
Heartworm Snap Tests Administered	41
Fecal Flotation Tests Administered	55
Microchips Administered	67
Spay/Neuter Surgeries Performed	32



TOAST
Adopted to
his FURever
home in 2025



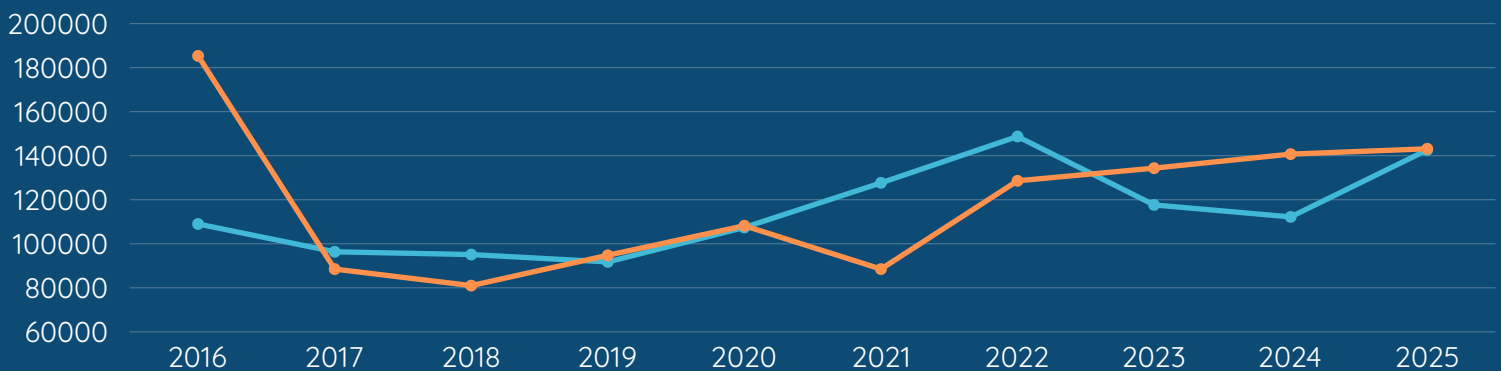
FINANCIALS

Support & Revenue	\$142,589.15
Expenses	\$143,130.51
2025 Income Over Expenses (Net Loss)	- \$541.36
Depreciation	\$22,193.25
Cash Basis Net Loss/Gain	\$21,651.89



INCOME VS. EXPENSES THROUGH THE YEARS

Income Expenses



Over the past couple of years, CCARE's expenses have outpaced our income due to rising operational and animal-care costs. Fundraising remains our largest revenue source, typically providing more than 60% of annual income. Meanwhile, municipal support has been essentially unchanged for nearly a decade even as inflation has driven up almost every expense. As a result, we're grateful for community generosity and are working to secure more sustainable local funding to restore long-term financial balance. In the coming year, we hope to strengthen municipal support and expand recurring revenue sources to ensure long-term financial stability.



FUTURE GOALS



Short-Term Goals (2026)

- Grow our foster network to increase shelter capacity and reduce length of stay
- Expand volunteer recruitment and training to support daily operations and enrichment
- Strengthen community education programs with more school and public outreach
- Enhance adoption visibility through social media, events, and partnerships
- Continue improving facility safety, efficiency, and disease prevention
- Increase participation in TNR to further reduce free-roaming cat populations
- Strengthen and stabilize municipal funding to match community needs

Long-Term Goals

- Develop the resources and infrastructure to begin accepting and caring for cats
- Expand TNR partnerships and county-wide collaboration
- Build long-term financial sustainability through grants, partnerships, and recurring giving
- Explore opportunities for facility expansion or upgrades to support future programs
- Continue elevating CCARE's profile as a nationally recognized no-kill organization



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

For more information, visit us
online at ccareinc.org



Special thanks to Central Office Service & Supply for their generous printing support, helping us share our impact with the community.