



TORONTO
CAT
RESCUE

2021 Annual Report



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26 Sponsors



Our mission is

to rescue & find homes

for abandoned, sick or injured cats

from situations of abuse, neglect or imminent euthanasia

Toronto Cat Rescue is a registered, no-kill charity.

Our vision is for Toronto to be a city in which no adoptable cat is killed and rescue organizations such as Toronto Cat Rescue are no longer needed



Our team in 2021



In September 2021, Toronto Cat Rescue's board, staff and volunteers mourned the passing of our Executive Director. Belinda joined TCR in 2017 and had incredible success during her time with the organization. She was an energetic and dynamic leader with a kind heart and generous spirit. She inspired us all to reach higher and look for unique and innovative ways to rescue and save more cats and get them into their forever homes. Belinda worked hard and was very dedicated to TCR, growing and strengthening our relationships, expanding our reach, and shining a spotlight on our work. Her legacy put TCR in a great position for future success and growth. We are very grateful for her contribution over the four years she was with Toronto Cat Rescue.

Board

Sarah May

Chair

Kyra Augustyn

Vice-Chair

Arlene Thomas

Secretary

Tony Schoeppich

Treasurer

Paul Butler

Director

Suzanne Patterson

Director

Bev Stone

Director

Kevin Wilson

Director

Staff

Belinda Vandersluis

Executive Director

Nalini Ramroop

Operations Manager

Irene Bianchi

Financial Assistant

Suzanne Vokey

Administrative Assistant



Key Objectives

1
Provide high quality care and treatment of cats in our care

2
Build and maintain a sustainable foundation to meet current and future needs

3
Be accountable, transparent, and act with integrity in all aspects of our work



Message from the Board Chair

The Toronto Cat Rescue community went through a lot together in 2021. In addition to all the continued stress and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, we also grieved the passing of our Executive Director, Belinda Vandersluis, in September.

I still remember when Belinda first started with TCR four years ago. At the time, we were in need of an experienced leader who could strengthen the foundations of the organization to ensure we were growing sustainably. During her time with TCR, Belinda did just that, focusing her time on growing our fundraising and partnerships, improving our financial management, and introducing innovative ideas that elevated TCR's name in the community. I know she is deeply missed by the Board, staff, and volunteers. I hope you all take comfort in seeing her positive impact, which will be felt for years to come.

During the past year, our volunteers pulled together, as they always do, and continued our critical rescue work despite all the difficulty of the past year, let alone the past several months. I know Belinda would be proud to see how many lives were saved and how determined our staff and volunteers were to keep our critical life-saving work moving ahead even during the few months we didn't have an Executive Director.

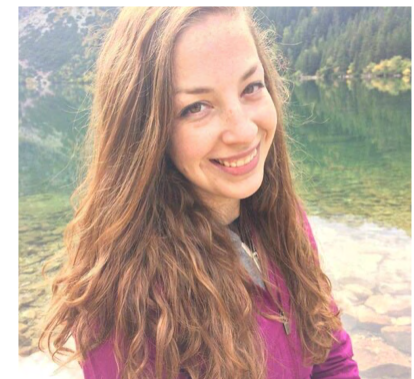
**"Our volunteers pulled together,
as they always do"**

I am also thrilled to now welcome our new Executive Director, Bonnie Levine, to TCR. With an extensive background in organizational leadership, I know Bonnie's going to do an amazing job building on Belinda's legacy. And she is already doing so much to get to know the organization and our volunteers. If you haven't already, I invite you to take the opportunity to connect with her and welcome her to TCR.

All in all, while the past year was a challenging one, the TCR community pulled together as it always does - for the cats. I'm deeply proud of everything we've all accomplished and all the cats we've each played a role in rescuing. Thank you for all you do.

Thank You

Sarah May



Message from the Executive Director

It has been such a difficult and challenging year for so many around the world and now a senseless war in Ukraine, with the suffering of people and their pets are compounded to devastating effects. Over this last year Toronto Cat Rescue experienced its own challenges and devastating loss, with the tragic death of its Executive Director Belinda Vandersluis on September 10, 2021. I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to Belinda's family and the entire Toronto Cat Rescue Community. I hope to live up to the standards Belinda established and nurture the organization she has grown.

Over the first months in this new role, one thing that strikes me as the most prominent characteristic of the organization is the passion and dedication of TCR volunteers and stakeholders. I have worked in many charitable organizations throughout my 35+

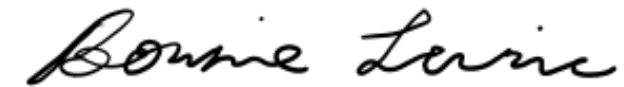
year career in the not-for-profit sector, and this is the highest degree of passion and dedication I have ever witnessed. I have the utmost respect and admiration for the volunteers who move mountains every day to save cats from horrific situations. I am humbled by the outstanding generosity of donors who answer our every call to help sick, injured and abused cats.

"Thus far in my short tenure, it has been a sheer delight"

I am entirely impressed with the highly motivated and capable Board, who do whatever needs to be done to ensure Toronto Cat Rescue operations is well supported. I am also truly honoured to work with a small but dynamic and talented team of staff. Thus far in my short tenure, it has been a sheer delight.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the volunteers, donors, sponsors, Board members and staff for your incredible contributions in making Toronto Cat Rescue the vibrant and passionate organization it is today. I am thrilled to join your team and look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead.

With sincere thanks,



Bonnie Levine
Executive Director



Operational Updates



Message from the Operations Manager

I will always remember 2021 as the year of great achievements despite profound loss.

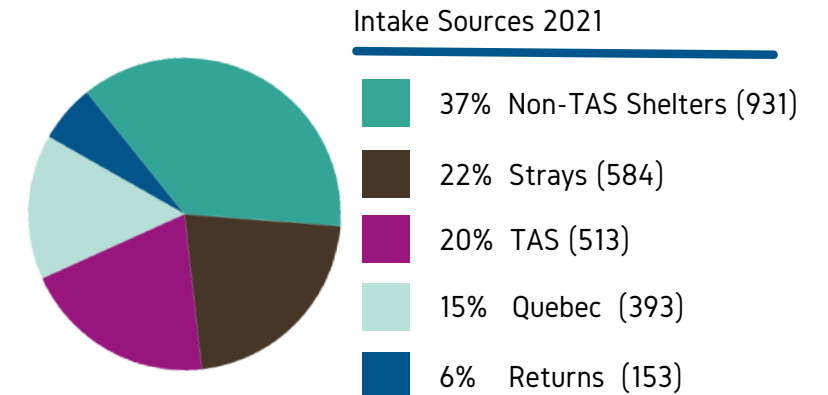
After surviving the roller coaster of COVID-19, this year started off with hope and positivity for some stability in our new normal. The surge in fostering and adoption requests slowed down to a bearable pace. I was pleased to note that the boom in adoptions during the pandemic did not result in a higher rate of returns.

Then in September 2021, our Executive Director, Belinda Vandersluis, unexpectedly passed away. She left a hole in our hearts and a critical leadership gap in our work. This was a time of mourning for everyone in the rescue community who worked with Belinda. Looking back now, we only survived this difficult time through our compassion for one another, and devotion to the many cats who still needed us. The board were true champions who took on an immense amount of extra work to keep operations running smoothly.

Coming out of this turbulent year really shows me what an army of superheroes we have in our TCR family of volunteers, staff, adopters, donors and partners. Together, we celebrated over 2500 happy adoptions. I know that would have made Belinda very proud.

TCR's core operations is rescuing cats but its core infrastructure is built on the unwavering passion, dedication and self-sacrifice of our people. The diversity in our people is our strength. Our commitment to rescuing cats from at-risk situations will always be our guiding principle. And we will continue to embrace every opportunity to include more members from diverse cultures and backgrounds in our work.

I'm looking forward to even more success in 2022 with our amazingly talented new ED, Bonnie Levine, guiding the way.



Nalini Ramroop
Operations Manager



Online Shop

2021 was a difficult year for Toronto Cat Rescue. However, despite the pandemic and the loss of our amazing Executive Director, Belinda, in September, we managed to still raise \$8,650 in online merchandise sales.

Even though our total orders went slightly down this year, our average order value went up 10% and our returning customer rate went up 7%, bringing the total to 28% of all orders in 2021 being placed by returning customers.

TCR is very fortunate to have such loyal supporters in all we do, including supporting us through online merchandise sales. Even if you are currently not in a position to volunteer your time, we are grateful for the support all new and returning patrons give us.

We are excited to roll out new merchandise in Spring 2022 and, depending on COVID, get back into attending events.

"TCR is very fortunate to have such loyal supporters"





2021 Highlights



2021 IN NUMBERS

**2,554 cats
adopted**

**20% of fosters
were adopted out
of the Kitchener-
Waterloo Chapter**

**1,242
volunteers**

**393 cats
from
Quebec**





Giving

Tuesday

Like many charities and non-profits across North America, Toronto Cat Rescue takes part in Giving Tuesday which takes place on the Tuesday immediately following American Thanksgiving. Following a weekend of hunting for discount deals bookended with Black Friday and Cyber Monday, this day offers an opportunity to turn to more philanthropic thoughts.

For TCR, 2021 was our most successful yet, raising over \$85,000, a 30% increase over 2020. This could not have been achieved without the incredible matching gifts made by the SATCH Foundation, Haft2 Inc, Lisa Brost, a long-time volunteer and two anonymous donors.

With that inspiration and the hope to raise enough to bring 75 cats into the program from rural shelters in Ontario as part of our partnership with the OSPCA, the response from our supporters was unbelievable. We are eternally grateful for each and every one who gave.





Cat Success Stories



Pooky

Pooky arrived with a large shelter transfer from Quebec in March of 2021. He is a spunky, super-cuddly little cat who loves spending time with people.

In Quebec, he had been having issues with itchy ears and sores around his ears which seemed to have gone away with steroid treatment. However, he still had an unusual rash on the insides of his ears that needed to be treated before he could be put up for adoption.

Unfortunately, his itchy issues were not resolved when he arrived at his foster home. His condition got progressively worse – eventually he developed large scabs on his ears even though he was given steroids again. As Pooky's skin got worse despite visits to a partner vet clinic and various medications, Pooky's foster home designed and sewed bespoke jackets with very high collars that he could wear instead of cones.

In the fall, Pooky was referred to a dermatology specialist who was able to diagnose his issues as resulting from a severe allergy. The only question remaining is: what is he so allergic to?

The most common causes of feline allergies are fleas (and other parasites), food, and other substances in the environment. Pooky is now being treated monthly with anti-parasite medications to rule out parasites. His foster parents are doing food elimination trials to determine if he has a food allergy. He is also receiving supportive medications which are controlling the sores and scabbing.

Thanks to Toronto Cat Rescue being a foster-based rescue, Pooky is able to spend this time in the comfort and love of a home.



Elvis

Elvis is a beautiful, all white senior cat. He was previously owned by an elderly lady who lived in an assisted living facility. Unfortunately, she was no longer able to take care of him and his epileptic condition. If not properly medicated, Elvis has seizures. The previous owner had no local family to rehome him to, and because of his epilepsy, all local shelters and animal rescues turned them away. In the meantime, he was not being properly medicated and his condition was getting worse. Someone suggested TCR to her and that is how Elvis came into our care.

When he started in the foster program in February 2021, he was having up to three seizures a day and was not in good shape. The vet quickly discovered a mistake with his medication dosage. Once he was on the proper dosage the seizures thankfully stopped right away and he was finally on the road to recovery.

We found him the perfect forever home in December 2021 with a couple who have another cat and a dog who also suffers from seizures. Elvis is fitting in great with his new family. He is easy-going and gets along with other animals. His new family adores him and his sweet disposition and are very grateful that Elvis was rescued by TCR.





Kringle

Kringle came to us from a local rural animal control. He was found with lacerations all over his body, many of them deep. It is unclear if he was attacked or if he got himself caught in barbed wire. He required multiple sutures and unfortunately due to the extent of injury to his eye, he had to have his right eye removed. Kringle is now adopted and doing well in his forever home.



Rouse Street

Rouse Street came to us from a local rural animal control. He was hit by a car and suffered a fracture of his right hind leg. His leg had to be amputated due to the severity of the break. He has healed remarkably well and has been adopted into his forever home.



Noel

We received a call from the public about an orange feral kitten who had gotten stuck in a piece of heavy machinery in Ayr. Luckily the business was down the street from our partner rescue vet and TCR added him to our list of Christmas Miracles. Noel was covered in grease with multiple superficial abrasions covering his body. A deep, large degloving wound on his right hind leg made amputation necessary. He is now adopted into his forever home and has a new sister, Alma.

STORIES FROM THE KITCHENER-WATERLOO CHAPTER

Finding their forever home



Pumpkin

John Coffey, now Pumpkin, came into my life late November of 2020. My sister and I banded together to foster cats after the loss of our family cats, Cricket and Fancy in 2019 and 2020. Pumpkin came to us weighing in at 27lbs and with a UTI. After a few vet visits, tooth removal, and strict diet, Pumpkin has transformed from this orange and white bump that could only walk a few steps, to a 16lb cat who runs after his kitten brothers Grayson and Finn all day long. Watching the long journey Pumpkin has taken from November 2020, to when I adopted him in January 2021, until today, I am overwhelmed by how much love this orange boy has brought me. No matter how bad his days were, he has always poured love through his purrs, meows, and cuddles. Pumpkin has experienced many second “firsts” in his year with me. The first time he was able to jump on my bed without the help of his pet stairs. The first time he could sit in his cat condo and watch birds out the window. The first time he’s been able to groom his toes and tummy. The first time he’s been able to do an entire flight of stairs without stopping. Pumpkin reminds me every day that no matter how hard it can be, you can always make it.



Pumpkin now lives out his days cuddling and grooming with his kitten brothers who are also rescues. Found under a deck in Hamilton in December, Pumpkin immediately took on the role of caring for them and has been a watchful eye over them when I’m not around. He has taught them manners, and they have reminded him how fun it is to be a cat again now that he’s lost enough weight to play!

I owe all the joy of having Pumpkin in my family to Toronto Cat Rescue. TCR guided my sister and me along in Pumpkin’s care to establish the best plan to keep him happy and healthy while in foster with us. TCR is an amazing rescue, the work they do to help rescue, care for, find foster homes, and forever homes for cats is so clear through all their fundraising and initiatives in the Toronto area. Anyone who is thinking about fostering or getting involved with a rescue should certainly look into TCR!



Kismet & Bean

Here is the story of two amazing cats - Kismet and Bean - that needed extra special care from TCR and were given a second chance at a happy life. Kismet came to us at 4 weeks old with severe upper respiratory infection (URI). He was so fragile that we almost lost him on his first night, but one of our amazing foster parents kept fighting to keep him alive with around the clock supportive care. His infection was so severe that it required multiple vet visits and rounds of medication and many months of TLC in foster care in order to help him breathe easy as the disease progressed. Unfortunately, he eventually had to lose an eye.

Bean found his way to TCR five months later, also with chronic URI very similar to Kismet. Bean joined Kismet at his foster home where they became instant best buddies. It was clear that these two were the perfect bonded pair and needed a forever home together.

We were worried about finding the right adoptive home for two boys with some chronic issues that would need ongoing treatment. Lucky for us an amazing adopter saw the boys online and she knew they were the perfect addition to her family! Kismet and Bean are now living like royal princes.

Bean and Kismet were lucky to have found their way to TCR. Thanks to our supporters, no cost was spared on their medical management. We are so proud of our two special boys!

BEFORE



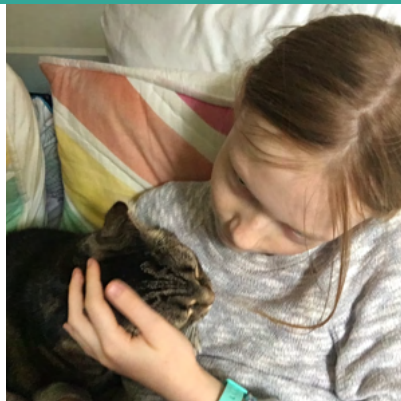
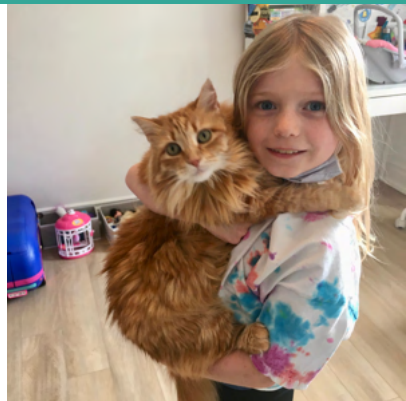
AFTER



Volunteer Spotlight



The Curran-Lehman Family



It's hard to believe that our family has only been fostering cats for a year! So far, 10 cats. My husband and I have 3 girls: ages 8, 11 and 14 who help with socializing, feeding and giving medication. Unsurprisingly they let me handle the litter box duties.

The fosters usually arrive scared and stressed, but we give them a safe place to become more comfortable and calmer. We then show them we are the source of food, treats and affection. It's fun for kids to see the fosters relax and thrive. During the past year, particularly when there have been extra COVID restrictions the cats have provided my family as much comfort as we have given them.

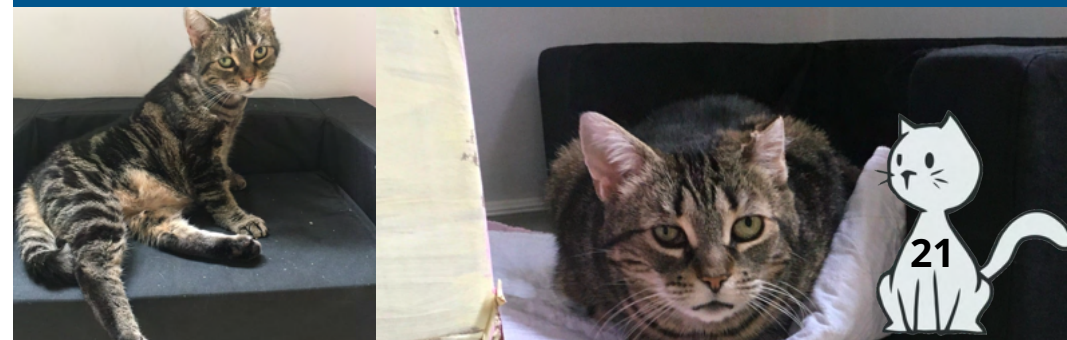
Occasionally, when needed, we have taken in a second foster, so a few cats have stayed full time in one of my girls' bedrooms. This has led to extra cuddles and made a few goodbyes more tearful; but my kids have now seen the full circle of the fostering process. Seeing adopters pick up their cats and getting updates has been amazing and provided closure.

Many people have told us they couldn't do this as they would want to keep every cat. We "never say never" to "foster failing", but we know that by keeping space to foster, we are helping save cats lives. We feel part of a bigger movement to save as many cats as possible.

Belle

Six-year-old Belle was part of a large intake in June from an overcrowded Quebec shelter. Her background is from an extreme hoarding situation. When she arrived to us after her long trip from Quebec she stumbled out of her carrier, then staggered around in circles whilst vomiting. TCR got her into a vet partner to be assessed. She came back to us the next day on antibiotics for an ear infection, and a neurologist referral at TVEH.

Belle's CT scan showed a massive polyp in her middle ear. A few weeks later she had a successful VBOT surgery to remove it. This surgery, and post-op care made her ready for adoption after 3 months in foster. An adopter, looking for a cat who had not had an easy life, read her online bio and knew that she was the cat for him. It turned out to be a perfect fit and Belle is now living her best life.



Bonnie

Volunteering makes my heart sing. Whether it is helping a foster kitten find a forever home, assisting a large rescue or reading every adoption request that comes in for a cat; nothing compares to the gratifying feeling of working with Toronto Cat Rescue.

Purpose in life is essential to everyone, especially given the times and the toll the uncertainty of the past few years has had on everyone's mental health. While looking to add more purposeful acts and contribute to my community, I decided to reach out to TCR. That was three years ago, and I can now say that it has changed my life in many ways.

I began by volunteering at PetSmart and then soon after began to take in foster cats. Eventually, I was asked to help with the large rescues and finally became an adoption counsellor. In all these acts, I found joy - whether that be giggling at all the many kittens running around our home -*shout out to my amazing husband Rob, who encourages me and adores all the craziness that comes with this-* to the tears of joy when letting them go to their forever homes. I have made many friendships and gained skills I never imagined I would have. It truly is amazing. I am so proud to be part of a fantastic organization.



Ash

Ash became a TCR foster parent in June 2021 with the help of his son Malik (8) and daughter Alyah (12). All three of them go through the intake list and choose their next foster together. Fostering is a family effort, and the children are mostly responsible for feeding, playing with, and cleaning up after their fosters. The whole family bonds with each cat's unique personality, like cuddly Shadow or 5-month-old Rocky who loves to paly!

"The hardest part is giving them away"

They all agree, the hardest thing to do is say goodbye. However, they all understand the great work they are doing for TCR and love seeing their fosters find their forever home. They have fostered 9 cats so far and are excited to foster more cats in 2022!



Azraa

Toronto Cat Rescue will always hold a very special place in my heart, and I feel lucky to be involved with such a fantastic organization. I started volunteering as a foster home and specialize in caring for medically complex cases and neonatal kittens - it is amazing to see how in 4 years of fostering cats, we have placed over 200 of them in loving adoptive homes!

I also helped found and manage TCR's internal healthcare team; a team we set up to more efficiently triage medical concerns and allocate the rescue's limited funding in the most efficient way possible. TCR has continuously impressed me with the dedication of its volunteers and staff in all roles that makes it possible for us to rescue these many cats. It is also an organization that regularly employs shelter medicine best practices and makes sure its cats receive excellent quality of care.

Being a volunteer foster with TCR and building up its healthcare team has led me on a journey of self-discovery as well that resulted in me switching careers from working in finance to starting veterinary school in the Fall of 2022. I will always be grateful for the compassion and kindness of the people I have met here, the knowledge and experience that I have gained, and the fond memories that have been left with me of all the cats that I have had the opportunity to help.





Financial Summary



Financial Statement

For the year ended September 30, 2021

Revenue	2021	2020
Adoption Fees	422,625	401,290
Donations - Receipted	164,090	174,224
Donations In Kind	118,559	102,863
Donations - Non-Receipted	452,593	470,022
Corporate Contributions	65,114	77,620
Sales	12,796	8,296
Fundraising	4,848	29,495
Corporate & Charitable Grants	46,048	40,271
Other Income	-	50,271
Interest Income	943	7,442
	\$1,297,616	\$1,378,686

Expenses	2021	2020
Veterinary Care	694,738	643,876
Cat Expenses	71,251	27,708
Volunteer Centre Expenses	37,485	32,154
Volunteer Program Expenses	17,484	15,202
Fundraising Expenses	24,791	25,633
Salaries & Benefits	270,776	221,516
Licenses, Memberships & Dues	23,922	18,885
Office & General	7,216	30,148
Professional Fees	11,030	9,477
Telecommunications	3,491	2,655
Travel	27,189	10,095
Amortization	1,337	2,245
Advertising & Promotion	-	49
Interest & Bank Charges	24	129
Donations In Kind	118,559	102,863
	\$1,309,293	\$1,142,635
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	(11,677)	236,051
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	488,340	252,289
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$476,663	\$488,340



Thank you to our sponsors

All photos in this report are of TCR volunteers and cats





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