



ANIMAL SHELTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Impact Report 2025



The ASAP Cats Mission

The mission of the Animal Shelter Assistance Program (ASAP Cats) is to save the lives of the cats in Santa Barbara County by providing shelter, veterinary care, behavioral support, adoption and foster services, education, and community outreach.

In support of the primary goals above, ASAP also seeks to:

- Maximize community involvement through volunteerism and outreach;
- Reduce the population of stray, homeless, and feral cats through adoption, spay/neuter and Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) programs, redemption, foster care, and educational programs;
- Form strong partnerships with Santa Barbara County Animal Services and other animal welfare groups to promote animal welfare and related causes.



A Message from Our Executive Director



2025 was a year of expansion and innovation for ASAP Cats, as our programs continued to grow to meet the needs of cats and the communities that care for them, including but not limited to:

Our **Tiny Lions™ program**, which socializes kittens born outdoors, welcomed 199 kittens this year — the highest number in our history. With patience and skilled care, these once-fearful kittens learn to trust people and begin their journey toward adoption.

Through our **Community Cats program**, our team and volunteers worked alongside neighborhood caregivers to support outdoor cats through TNVR, colony management, and feeding support, helping stabilize populations while improving the health of cats already living in our communities. Together, these efforts resulted in a 95.2% live release rate, reflecting the commitment of our staff, volunteers, fosters, and partners to giving every cat the best possible chance. Behind every number is a cat who received care,

a family who found help, and a community strengthened through compassion.

For cats who may not thrive in traditional homes, our **Working Cats and Alternative Placement programs** create another lifesaving pathway. Through partnerships with barns, wineries, businesses, and property owners, these cats find safe environments where they can live naturally while providing valuable rodent control.

At the same time, our **Wellness Program** allows us to treat cats with complex medical conditions including FeLV, FIP, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses — care that many shelters simply do not have the resources to provide. We are deeply grateful to our animal welfare partners who think of ASAP Cats when they encounter cats needing specialized care or placement options, allowing us to work together to give more cats a chance.

None of this work would be possible without the extraordinary people who stand behind it. Our volunteers contribute in countless ways: caring for cats in the shelter, fostering kittens and medical cases, helping with trapping and colony care, supporting events, and sharing ASAP's story through outreach, networking, and community engagement. **While this only encapsulates a portion of the work we do at ASAP, I am proud of every single member of our organization who gives their all for our cats.**

As we celebrate the accomplishments of 2025, we also know the need continues to grow. Sustaining and expanding these programs will require the continued support of the compassionate community that makes this work possible.

The future for cats in our community will not be decided by circumstance, but by the compassion of the people willing to stand up for them.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Wiebe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jessica Wiebe
Executive Director

2025 In Review

Saving the Lives of 100% of Adoptable Cats and Kittens

1,282

cats & kittens sheltered

98

lost cats & families reunited

683

cats cared for
in foster homes

199

Tiny Lions™ tamed

142

community cats
supported through
TNVR efforts

916

spay/neuter
surgeries

99

working cats placed
in safe outdoor homes

3,212

life-saving procedures
delivered

17

cats assisted in the
community through
microchip scans and
lost pet support

32

hospice cats
sleeping in homes

made possible by

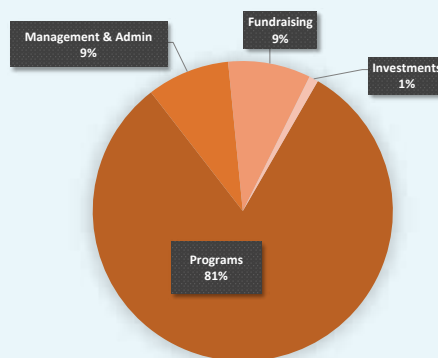
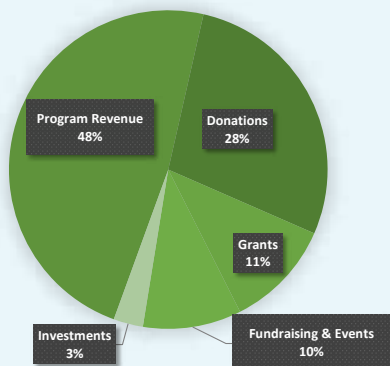
38,031

volunteer hours

equivalent to 19
full-time staff

Mildred





INCOME: \$1,938,112

48%	PROGRAM REVENUE*	\$933,126
28%	DONATIONS	\$539,798
11%	GRANTS	\$207,450
10%	FUNDRAISING & EVENTS	\$202,077
3%	INVESTMENTS	\$55,661

**Program Revenue includes Catalyst Merger*

EXPENSES: \$1,535,837

81%	PROGRAMS	\$1,237,905
9%	MANAGEMENT & ADMIN	\$144,046
9%	FUNDRAISING	\$134,425
1%	INVESTMENTS	\$19,460

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

CASH ASSETS	\$269,580
PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT	\$190,684
INVESTMENTS	\$2,292,355
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,752,619

CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$53,628
TOTAL EQUITY	\$2,698,991

THANK YOU

to the following for their generous support:

- Animal Charitable Foundation of Santa Barbara County, Inc.
- Edwin and Jeanne Woods Foundation
- Hutton Parker Foundation
- May and Bill Allison Foundation
- Patricia and Paul Bragg Foundation
- Petco Love Lost
- RESQCATS
- RLH Foundation
- Roy & Ida Eagle Foundation
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation
- Schlinger Chrisman Foundation
- The Wood-Claeyssens Foundation

Your generosity continues to make a huge impact for ASAP Cats!

As the leader in Santa Barbara County for cat care, we are positioning ourselves to forge forward and continue to make greater and greater impact for the cats and people who love them in our community. We do this work together, and we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you for all you have done in 2025 to help ASAP Cats, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the future.

Bernard Kelmenson

Bernard Kelmenson
Board President



Top Life-saving Stories from 2025: A Home That Works For Delorean

Delorean's ASAP journey began in early 2024 when he was surrendered to ASAP by an owner who could not keep him due to personal circumstances. Unfixed, unbothered, and plenty social, Delorean's popularity at ASAP knew no bounds, as he enjoyed time gallivanting around the outdoor runs and impressing volunteers and staff alike with his good looks and confident demeanor.



Sunbathing has always been one of Delorean's favorite pastimes.

After spending several months at the shelter without finding his forever home, our team decided to give him a chance as a working cat. He was placed with a feline friend from Santa Barbara Humane Society at a lovely Goleta residence, but as fate would have it, Delorean and his new “pal” Steven did not see eye to eye. Sometimes two cats simply don't get along, as is the nature of these things. However, the caretakers loved them both so much that they had trouble deciding which cat they would return to ASAP!

Ultimately it was Delorean who received the short end of the stick, facing another stint back in the shelter. Soon after returning to his favorite run and volunteers, however, a Hope Ranch working cat program applicant expressed interest in the sweet boy. Offering a beautiful property complete with pool, patio, and no pesky Steven (who in truth is quite a lovely cat), Delorean's new home was found!

At long last: a forever happy home for Delorean and another win for the Working Cats Program! Interested in having a working cat come to your property? Contact Mary at (805) 699-5739 or email workingcats@asapcats.org for more information!



Preferring to be the star of the show, Delorean adores getting all the attention from anyone willing to give it to him.

Lucky McGee's Got Eight More Lives

As the premier high-save cat shelter in Santa Barbara County, ASAP is no stranger to saving injured cats facing euthanasia. When community cat Lucky McGee was found by a good Samaritan with a slew of injuries, the evidence pointed to his being hit by a car. He had a dislocated jaw, minimal use of his hind leg, partially healed lacerations, and plenty of skinned areas.

Though he allowed minimal handling, he appeared mostly unsocial and rather grizzly given his condition. It was difficult to get him the treatment he so desperately needed due to his initial resistance to any human interventions, but ASAP's Wellness team refuses to give up on a cat in need, so we got to work.

We eventually were able to give him medication to reduce his pain, and subsequently our team reset his dislocated jaw while he was under anesthesia and receiving radiographs. The radiographs additionally revealed a dislocated hip that could not be reset, so after sending him off to one of our veterinarian



partners, Lucky McGee received a Femoral Head Osteotomy – essentially a hip replacement for cats that removes part of the femoral head of the femur (FHO) – from Dr. Jessica Scherr, DVM

Now stable and on the mend (albeit still a bit grizzly), Lucky McGee is healing gently at ASAP. Despite the immense jaw pain he initially suffered, he's been eating well throughout his recovery, lunging at his breakfast every opportunity he can grab a bite. He even permits light pets while he's eating, now that he's feeling better and no longer constantly uncomfortable.

Following Lucky McGee's recovery, he transitioned to the Alternate Placement track, where our dedicated team found a suitable caretaker fit for the fortunate boy.



Snips and Sticks: Caring for Cats on the Go

2025 marked an exciting step forward as our mobile veterinary unit traveled throughout the county, bringing TNVR services and access to care directly into communities that need it most. By meeting people where they are, ASAP Cats is removing barriers to care and expanding humane solutions for cats and the people who care for them.

We held two spay clinics in Santa Maria late 2025 as well as one in Los Alamos this February for World Spay Day.



Starting in Atkinson Park for our first clinic, we assisted an individual with over a dozen cats at his residence. Our team managed to

trap and alter 10 outdoor cats and one indoor cat, and we additionally checked in on several local working cats in North County, performing routine exams to ensure everyone was happy and healthy.

Following the success of our first mobile clinic in Atkinson Park, we returned a few weeks later for Round 2: we trapped 14 cats from various colonies in the area, performing surgeries for four cats and two semi-feral kittens. We even had four people that saw us in the area run home to bring us their cats to alter before the day was up. Overall, our Atkinson Park clinics were a huge success!



ASAP Cats is currently one of the very few shelters offering vaccines for community cats.

Seeing how effective our mobile clinics have been, we are planning for more – though costs for the vaccines we distribute are slowly adding up. If you're interested in supporting our team and helping us continue to provide low-and-no-cost vaccine services, please help out with a donation to ASAP by scanning the QR code or visiting our website at: www.asapcats.org.



Feeding a Village, One Midnight Run at a Time

When Catalyst for Cats, Inc. merged with our organization earlier this year, ASAP Cats took on a major responsibility that Randi Fairbrother dedicated her life to: feeding and treating the community cats of North County, including Santa Maria, Santa Ynez, Los Alamos, Lompoc, and Buellton. Overseeing more than a dozen community cat colonies and hundreds of hungry felines would be quite the adjustment for any shelter – which is why ASAP is so fortunate to now have Amy Smith on our team.

In a nutshell, Amy's daily routine is as follows: Up before the sun to feed three colonies of local cats, then off to Gold Buckle Ranch a little after 6 a.m. Working with the horses and cats until the daily work is done, usually around 2 p.m. when everyone is fed and clean. Home for a cat nap and maybe a bite to eat, then back to the ranch before 4 p.m. to blanket and feed the horses, tend to the cats, and prep for the next day. Home for a quick dinner around 6 p.m. (feeding a couple of colonies on the way there) and a few hours of sleep, then up for the main feeding ritual of eight cat colonies around midnight. A few more hours of sleep, then up before the sun to do it all again.



When he's not stomping around the ranch and checking on his horses, Blue can be found napping just about anywhere.



The oldest kitty at Gold Buckle Ranch, Lupe spends her evenings in a warm shed with her buddy Blue.

She works six days a week and is off Sundays. "This is also my workout, so I can eat whatever I want" muses Amy. "Whatever animals I come across, whatever I see, knowing I can help and give them something they need...it feels good when you can do something."

In addition to the 11 community cats at Gold Buckle Ranch, Amy personally feeds 11 cat colonies daily, oversees a team of feeders managing a dozen additional colonies, and orders (as well as delivers) cat food to around 20 locals. She and her army feed close to 400 hungry cats every single day. "They need an advocate," Amy says, "and animals are unconditional and present, so if anything, they need an extra bit of love."

Amy first forayed into animal welfare over a decade ago after learning about Catalyst from her vet, Dr. Brenda Forsythe, founder of Orcutt Veterinary Hospital. Amy began trapping in 2015 after learning the tricks of the trade from longtime Catalyst volunteer Debby Merry, and

soon took over feeding community cats near her Santa Maria townhome. She managed to TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) around 30 cats who lived nearby, and not long after, stepped up to support Randi and Catalyst as their new lead feeder and trapper when Debby moved out-of-state. “There came the big ask from Debby: ‘Can you do what I do?’ But I didn’t realize it was for life!” Amy says with a laugh.

Amy became the district manager of Panera Bread around the same time she became the lead feeder, so she held a meeting at Panera and rallied some reliable members of her community to help. “And we just grew!” Amy says. “I have my army.” And most of her original army still help Amy feed to this day, nearly ten years later, though she’s always on the lookout for new



When Amy's Tacoma rolls up to a usual feeding spot, it's not uncommon to see a dozen cats suddenly waltz out of hiding, tails perked in excitement.

people ready to volunteer. Feeding cats and working with them over 80 hours every month, Amy is aware of how daunting her schedule seems. “I do sacrifice a lot of my time,” she says, “and having more volunteers feed with me would make a difference. It’s just tough to feed cats any time other than midnight, and not everyone wants to get up and do it.”

In addition to a tough schedule, the costs associated with feeding community cats are steadily increasing. Friskies Tender Crunchy

is Amy’s go-to due to its both soft and hard ingredients – ideal for cats with bad teeth, which many community cats often have. While packaged cat food can get rather pricey, it’s exceedingly helpful for needy cats, especially options like squeezable Churu or other soft, nutritious treats. On average, Amy used to spend close to \$4,000 every two weeks on food alone, but that number has since gone up. Yearly expenses for feeding these community cats are now closer to \$100,000.

While everyone who knows Amy appreciates how much she does to save animals, there is also the occasional naysayer. “The haters are the biggest challenge,” Amy says. “I always keep extra bowls so I can make sure the cats eat and drink water, because people will take them.”

During one of her midnight feeding runs, Amy was harassed by a local, claiming her feedings led to his dog developing mange. Many of Amy’s feeding sites are in underdeveloped neighborhoods, so being verbally assaulted close to midnight is enough to scare anyone away from the area – except Amy, who not only ensured the cats on site still got their food, but additionally returned the next day with dog food, biscuits, and topical medications for the stranger’s dog. “I get that not everyone understands, but we’ve helped so many people and families, so we’re ready to keep going.” Amy says. “These animals deserve to be happy.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Scheduled feeding of local community cats is a great way to get some free vermin control!

Long hours, hard work, but community cats deserve our care

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Despite the obstacles and the strong will required, Amy never turns down an opportunity to help an animal in need. “I remember being at Panera, seeing dogs on the street, and saying to myself ‘Well, I’m gonna take those dogs in,’” she says. “I’ll see strays, so I’ll call them in. I’ll text who I know, and they’ll dispatch someone.” Working in animal welfare all these years and being a staple in her community, Amy’s network has grown dramatically – allowing her to keep a watchful eye out for any animal in need.

“They deserve to have a good life and be happy too,” she said. “Life is hard enough, and we’ve created this world for them, so anything we can do to help them, I’ll do.”



While monitoring this specific cat for a few weeks, Amy has been regularly administering flea treatment for him!



Amy's feeding spots are relatively populated during the day, so feeding the cats at night allows them to have a quiet meal together in peace.

WANT TO SUPPORT AMY?

Feeding 400 cats a day takes a lot of food – and it isn’t cheap! ASAP projects spending around \$100,000 a year on food to feed these cat colonies previously supported by Catalyst, and we rely primarily on the generosity of our incredible supporters. Consider donating to our **General Fund** to help our community cats. We additionally have an Amazon wish list full of treats our community kitties love!

For more information and to give, visit our website at www.asapcats.org or scan the QR code to the right.



Adopt

Directly save a life and enrich your own by opening your home and heart to a shelter cat — and encourage friends, family, and community members to adopt from ASAP.

Foster

Give a cat a break from shelter life by opening your home to foster. We provide the supplies, you supply the love — it's a win-win! Fostering is also a great way to socialize cats and allow their real personalities to shine through,

Future Gifts

Ensure that the the most vulnerable cats will always be saved through a bequest to ASAP. Contact legacy@asapcats.org for more information, or to let us know if you have already included ASAP in your estate plans.

Volunteer

With just a few hours a week, you can make a profound difference in the lives of the cats in our shelter. From animal care to administrative support to social media, there are many ways to help!

To learn more, email volunteer@asapcats.org or visit our website at asapcats.org/volunteer

Donate

Every gift directly saves cats. Give online by visiting us at asapcats.org or simply scan the QR code. ASAP Cats welcomes gifts of stock as well as in-kind donations. For more information, email us: info@asapcats.org.

To make a tax deductible contribution by mail, send to:

ASAP CATS
PO Box 357
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