

# FELINE ADVOCATES

## OF LEON COUNTY

### Mission

To advocate on behalf of the rights of animals in Leon County, specifically cats, but on occasion others.

To provide service and care to animals in an attempt to reduce suffering.

To re-home homeless animals.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



# OUR TEAM

## Board of Directors

President-Founder  
Michelle Hartsfield

Vice President  
Melissa Smith

Secretary  
Sara Jones

Director  
Cailee Geddis

Director  
Lindsey Viramontes

Director  
Gail Sloane

Director  
Peyton Corbin

Honorary Director-Founder  
Susie Caplowe





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As a young non profit to the Big Bend area, we are excited to share with the community our quick growth. We are proud to announce that the newly founded non profit, Feline Advocates of Leon County, has quickly made a name for itself and hit the ground running.

I couldn't have asked for a better team of volunteers and dedicated animal lovers that have turned this dream into a reality. Our team members are busy, steadily building our foster program, handling intakes and their vet needs, making repairs and enhancing our foster facilities, caring for sick and homeless felines, organizing fundraisers, writing grants and thanking our contributors and supporters. And that is just a preview of what we have going on.

We have already begun to join the efforts with other non profits saving lives and hope to work with the city and county officials to earn their support in controlling the stray cat issue with humane solutions in Leon County. Through this we can end suffering in the animal population, on the streets of our community.



With the onset of Covid-19 we had to place a hold on our Senior Citizen and People with Disabilities "Kitty Comfort" program. We hope to be able to come back to it and help enhance the lives of people in our community, once we can resume normal activities.

As we continue to work in our community with homeless animals, we look forward to working on our education program. So many topics regarding all animal welfare need to be shared with our community and we hope to play a prominent roll along side other wonderful animal non profits in spreading animal welfare knowledge.

We appreciate your support and please continue to follow us through all of our endeavors!

Michelle Hartsfield  
Founder and President



# THE FALC CATS

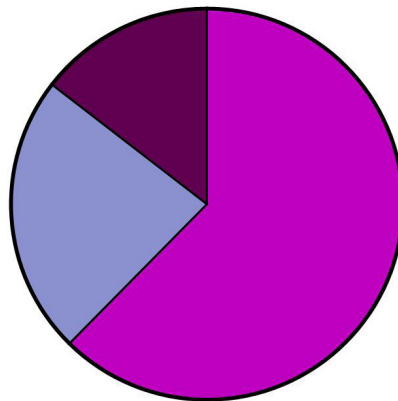
## INTAKES

2020 and COVID changed everything for the number of cats F.A.L.C. took in. With COVID shutting down our local shelter, the local rescues were forced to step up and take in, vet, and care for more animals than usual.

In 2019, our first year operating, our intakes were at 66 and for 2020 we managed to rescue 320 felines (and 2 canines).

With the opening of our adult cat adoption center, Fat Cat Books, we were able to consciously expand our rescuing to the older kitties, bringing in multiple senior and adult cats.

We took in cats from citizens in Leon County, as well as surrounding rural shelters from Thomasville, Bainbridge, Moultrie and Franklin Co.



**Total = 320**

- Stray 199
- Shelters/Rescue Transfer 75
- Owner Surrender 46



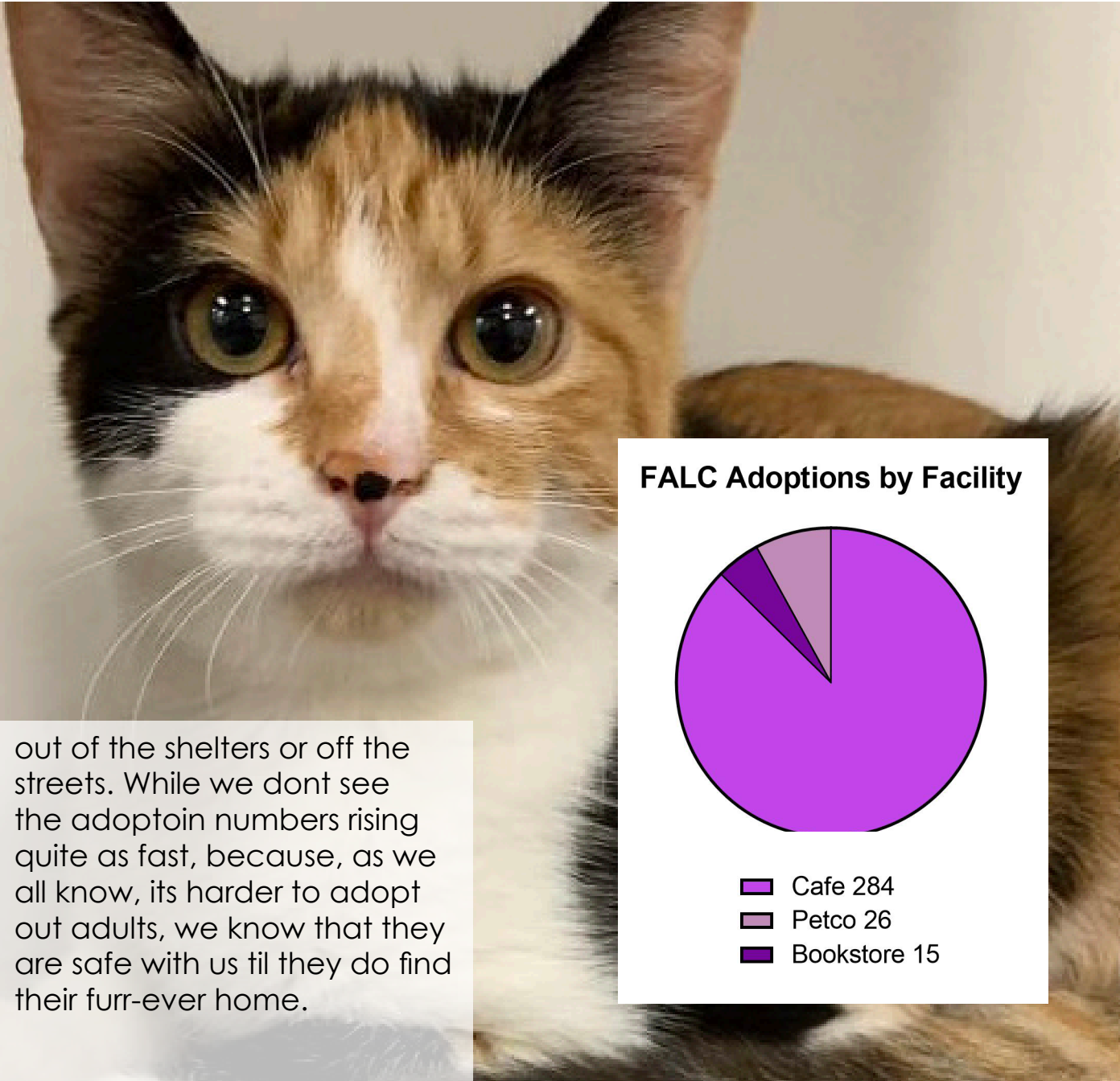
# THE FALC CATS

## ADOPTIONS 2020 327

We are so blessed to have 2 new outlets for adoptions, in addition to Fat Cat Cafe. This past year, in May, we added the habitats at Petco at Governor's Square to our repertoire and in October we opened Fat Cat Books in Railroad Square.

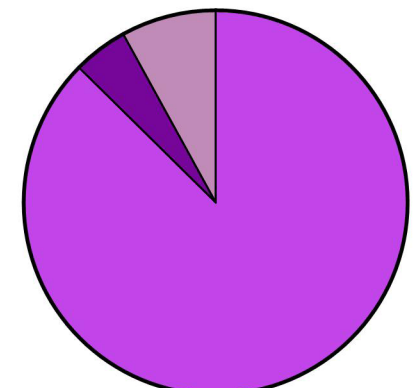
The kitties we take to Petco only stay for 7 days, based on a policy we set in place, and then they go back to either of the adoption facilities. But rarely do they ever make it that long before getting adopted. Petco has helped find so many furr-babies new homes, we could not be more thankful for the opportunity.

Fat Cat Books was opened to cater to adult and senior cats, to get them



out of the shelters or off the streets. While we don't see the adoption numbers rising quite as fast, because, as we all know, it's harder to adopt out adults, we know that they are safe with us until they do find their furr-ever home.

**FALC Adoptions by Facility**



- Cafe 284
- Petco 26
- Bookstore 15

# FAT CAT CAFE

## ADOPTIONS 389

Fat Cat Cafe turned 3 on August 17th, and after having an amazing boost in adoptions from people wanting to quarantine with new pets during COVID, we feel like we have established our place in the community.

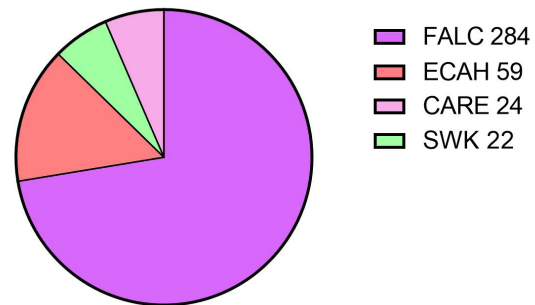
We have seen our revenue increase and our adoption literally double in one year. 2021 is not showing any signs of slowing down.

Even though events with kitties had to come to a halt due to COVID, thanks to one of our generous donors, we were able to offer Yoga with Kitties through on line streaming. We also kept our local artist boutique alive by taking it online and shipping products as far as Illinois. We couldn't keep Gail's Cat Nip Bags in stock!

We reopened safely and now business is better than ever!!!



**Fat Cat Cafe Adoptions 2020**



**Total = 389**



# FAT CAT BOOKS

## ADOPTIONS 15

Fat Cat Books is a used book store and senior cat adoption center. We had the dream prior to COVID-19 taking over, so we had to wait. Then when the time seemed right, we took a chance. And what a great move that was!

The community has embraced and enjoyed the bookstore and its kitties so much and it has created a way for us to sustain our endeavours with donated books and book lovers.

At the book store, you will only find kitties over the age of 2 but mostly over 5 years old. We have created a calm, safe environment for the older kitties to relax and wait for their furrever homes.

We look forward to many years of kitties and books.



# REVENUE

## FAT CAT CAFE

\$47,650\*

## FAT CAT BOOKS

\$11,891\*

## GRANTS

\$ 34,000

## FUNDRAISING

\$14,895  
(partial inclusive above\*)



## 2019-2020 FUNDRAISERS

BLAZE PIZZA-AUGUST AND MARCH 2019•HAPPY MOTORING-JUNE 2019•PUTTS FOR PAWS-JULY 2019•  
FOR CAT'S SAKE ART AUCTION-SEPTEMBER 2019•VALENTINE'S DAY LITTER BOX EVENT-FEBRUARY 2020•  
X-BOX RAFFLE-APRIL 2020•WORLD THREADS JEWELRY-MAY 2020•GARAGE SALE-AUGUST 2020•BOOK SALE-  
NOVEMBER 2020•PARROT HEADS PARTY WITH A PURPOSE 2020•CORNER POCKET BINGO CHARITY 2020



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

We believe that in order to solve the homeless pet population, we must work together as a community, utilizing our resources to provide the best care for the cats and kittens in need. That is why we believe our partners and sponsors are one of the most important aspects of our organization.

We give our utmost thanks to those who walk with us in our journey!

***"Alone we can do so little,  
together we can do so  
much."  
--Helen Keller***





# OUR VILLAGE

## OUR FOSTERS

The process of saving a feline begins with knowing you have a safe place to keep them. That is why we value our fosters so much. They follow our policies and are diligent about giving the care needed to keep them well and safe.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Outside of caring for the kitties, there are so many other moving parts. These parts don't move without our die-hard volunteers. Many of us would be burned out if it weren't for them picking up so many other tasks, from laundry to trips to vets, to helping at the facilities.

## OUR EMPLOYEES

We are lucky enough to be able to pay employees to oversee our adoption centers. And we only employ dedicated, cat-knowledgeable, reliable people who make running these facilities easier and safer while the rest of us can go to our "day jobs".





# TRAP NEUTER RETURN

Trap neuter return (TNR) is a humane and effective technique for managing populations of feral, unowned, free-roaming community cats. Cats are humanely trapped, sterilized, and receive a rabies vaccine before being returned to their outdoor home. It's estimated that over 70% of kittens are born outside, and TNR effectively reduces the number of stray kittens being brought into animal shelters, vet offices, and rescues like us!

We are proud of our 50+ TNRs from this year! Many of them we consider "full circle" TNR. When we rescued kittens from an outdoor location, we revisited it to locate and sterilize any unaltered adult cats in the area, to break the reproductive cycle and prevent any more stray kitten rescues in that location.

We also had many community assists this year

- helping citizens spay and neuter their own pets. Often, people want to get their animals fixed, but they do not have the resources to do so. We were happy to help guide and assist through our partnership with Be The Solution!

Every fixed cat is a success, and one step closer to getting Tallahassee's community cat population under control!

