

We dedicate Animal-Kind International's 2024 Annual Report to our Partner Organization, Sauvons nos Animaux in Bukavu, eastern Congo, where they are currently facing a situation that most of us can only imagine....armed rebels making their way through villages just beyond the shelter.



Today, as I finalize our 2024 report, Paterne (Sauvons nos Animaux) posted this:

We are taking measures to ensure the safety of shelter animals and protect our staff. Goma fell under rebel control today, and in Bukavu, fighting between loyalist forces and rebels is taking place about 90km away, near MINOVA. We intend to build food stocks soon thanks to the support of [Animal-Kind International](https://www.animal-kind.org/fr/sauvons-nos-animaux) For those who wish to help, here is the link: <https://www.animal-kind.org/fr/sauvons-nos-animaux>

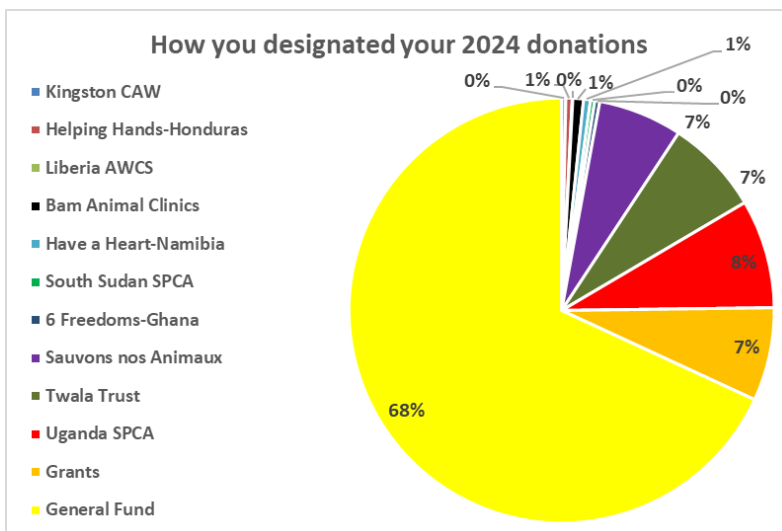
Please keep them in your thoughts and we know that you stand with us in the hope that this conflict resolves soon without any further death or destruction....for the sake of the beautiful Congo, our friends in Congo, and the peaceful haven, Sauvons nos Animaux.



Animal-Kind International Annual Report-2024

In 2024, we focused on our two main programs, (1) support for our Partner Organizations and (2) the Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program:

- 1) We raised money for and provided technical and administrative support to our Partner Organizations in Africa and Latin America/Caribbean (LAC). For 2024 (at the AKI Board meeting in December 2023), we added Twala Trust in Zimbabwe as a Partner and dropped Save Animals-Armenia, consolidating our support in our two key regions, Africa and Latin America/Caribbean. Having worked with our Partner Organizations closely, and because we continuously vet them, we are able to confidently provide ongoing funding for their priority animal welfare needs as long as they comply with our requirements.
- 2) We supported ten recipients through our 7th annual Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program (2024). Our Grantees receive one-time funding based on a winning proposal submitted during our open grant competition period.



We provide financial, technical, and administrative support to our Partner Organizations and Grantees. Financial support for our Partner Organizations is based on the amount of total donations we receive; the amount that donors designate to a specific Partner (←); need and capacity of the Partner to use the funds; and on the quality (accountability, transparency, clear and regular communications) of the Partner’s reporting. In 2024, 68% of donations were undesignated (our general fund), which allowed the AKI

Board to have a substantial say in the amount of funds distributed to our Partners and used for our Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program.

In 2024, we helped 22 organizations in 14 countries. These include [our Partner Organizations](#):

- Sauvons nos Animaux in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- The Six Freedoms in Ghana
- Liberia Animal Welfare & Conservation Society
- Have a Heart-Namibia
- South Sudan Society for the Protection & Care of Animals
- Uganda Society for the Protection & Care of Animals
- Bam Animal Clinics in Uganda
- Twala Trust in Zimbabwe
- Helping Hands for Hounds of Honduras
- Kingston Community Animal Welfare in Jamaica

And our [10 Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grantees:](#)

- Tanzania Small Animal Veterinary Organization (2nd time grantee)
- Lake Zone Animal Welfare Organization in Tanzania
- Nairobi Feline Sanctuary in Kenya
- Kenya Society for the Protection & Care of Animals
- Blind Love in South Africa (2nd time grantee)
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals-Grahamstown (3rd time grantee)
- Little Paws Big Hearts in South Africa
- amaTrac uluntu in South Africa
- Welfare for Animals Guild in Rwanda
- Starting Over Sanctuary in Israel/Gaza

Our “Friendly Audits” Program helps animal welfare organizations in non-financial ways. By providing a virtual volunteer mentor for targeted Africa-based animal welfare organizations, this program strengthens administrative and technical capacities of select organizations. With fewer volunteers for our Friendly Audits in 2024 than we’ve had since 2020, when we first started the program, we were able to fill only two of the many requests for mentors.

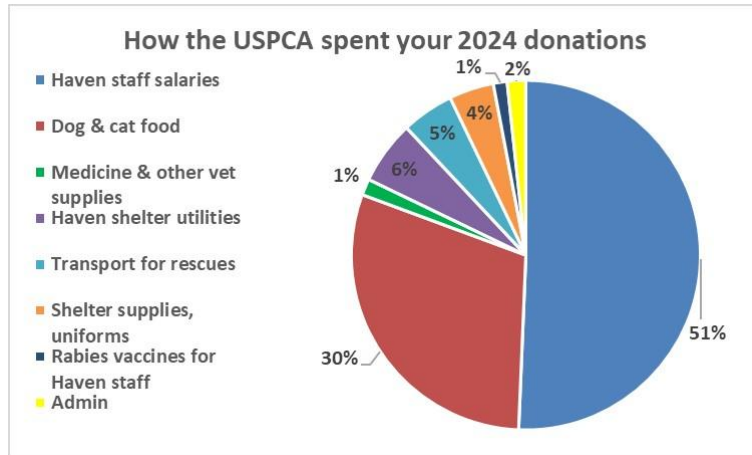
And we always provide technical and administrative support to our Partners...since that's what Partners do, strengthen each other.

1. Support to AKI Partner Organizations

Below is a summary of our support in 2024 to our Partner Organizations and what that support has achieved.

AFRICA

Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals: In 2024, we supported the USPCA’s two shelters, the “old” Haven and the new shelter, providing 50% of the USPCA’s operating expenses.



- Our USPCA Pet Food Fund (Elaine Law Memorial Pet Food Fund plus USPCA kennel sponsorships donated through AKI) provided most of the USPCA’s cat and dog food during 2024. In-kind donations of food from local supporters directly to the USPCA shelter covered the remainder of cat and dog food needed for the ~350 shelter pets.
- We funded Uganda SPCA shelter staff salaries, including a much-needed and deserved raise for shelter

staff.

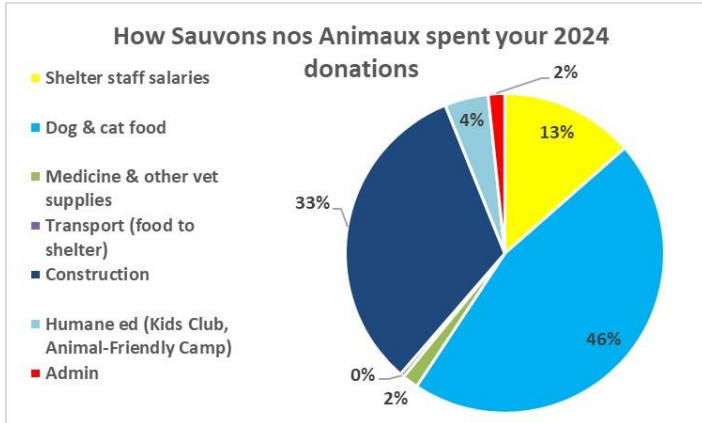
- We covered the cost of repairing the cattery roof which was leaking badly. All metal sheets (under shelter supplies in the above figure) had to be replaced →.
- We funded spay/neuter of all shelter pets, including the backlog of 43 recently rescued cats and dogs, and all incoming new rescues (thank you to the local volunteer vets who gave their time and expertise!)



We’re still working with the USPCA to obtain the environmental permit from NEMA, which will allow them to continue construction and to move the remaining 300 of a total of ~350 cats and dogs to the new shelter site.

Our support for the USPCA makes all their rescues and adoptions possible (e.g., the adoption of Pretty by Mr & Mrs Jonathan ←. All adopted animals are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and treated for parasites).

Sauvons nos Animaux-Democratic Republic of Congo: In 2024, we supported about 90% of the operating costs of SnA’s shelter in Bukavu.



- Thanks to AKI’s Shirlee Christensen Memorial Pet Food Fund, we covered 100% of the cost of cat and dog food for SnA shelter animals.

- When the upper portion of the shelter perimeter fence toppled over, we sent about 90% of the funds needed to build a sturdy brick wall and protect the shelter from flooding, mudslides, and unwanted entry. In 2023, we had funded construction of about 1/3 of the upper wall; the 2024 funding was

for the remaining 2/3; SnA is now fully protected along its upper edge.

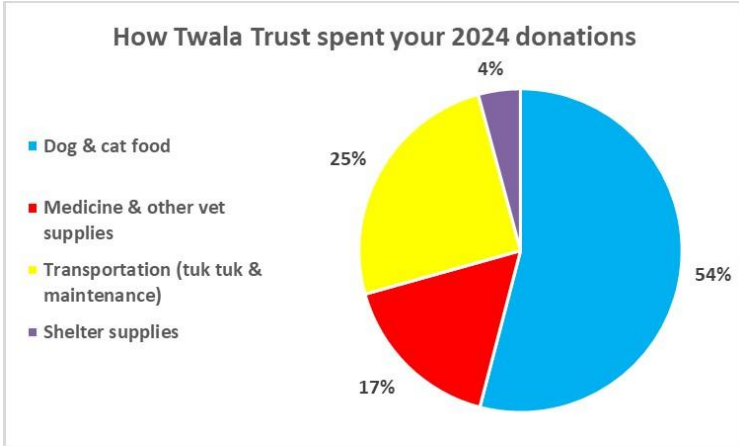
- During the past few years, SnA’s Pet Friendly Kids Camp hosted about 240 children during school break. But this year, due to a drop in donations (to SnA directly and to AKI for the camp), SnA could only afford to have 140 kids attend. Still, it’s an experience of a lifetime for all those who do participate. →



From Paterne Bushunju (December 2024), founder & director of SnA:

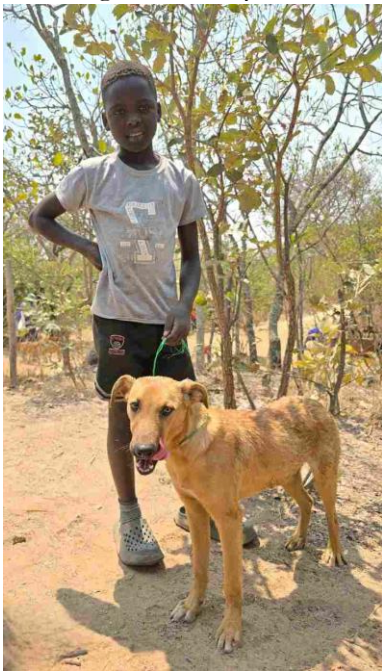
“Our shelter, once in danger, has undergone a remarkable transformation thanks to our partnership with Animal-Kind International. This crucial support has not only saved our facility but also significantly improved the living conditions of our residents, the animals....This improvement is also attributed to the compassion and dedication of the staff, trained and supported by Animal-Kind International. This program ensures that each animal receives the attention they deserve, promoting their well-being. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Animal-Kind International. Thanks to their valuable help, our shelter is straightening itself and providing animals with a dignified and fulfilling life environment. This is a partnership that makes a difference, and we are extremely grateful.”

Twala Trust-Zimbabwe: In 2024, Twala Trust’s 1st year as an AKI Partner:



- Our Pet Food Fund (Elaine Law Memorial Pet Food Fund) provided the dog food for Doggy Tuesday dogs, approximately 600 who attend weekly, and for some, a takeaway doggy bag to give them extra nutrition during the week.
- We purchased a tuk tuk for Twala Trust when they told us their utility pick-up truck was no longer operational.

Sarah (Trustee of Twala Trust) sent this message: “Thank you so much for the wonderful support in 2024. It has made a truly significant difference in so many areas of our work at Twala and we are so proud and grateful to be a partner organization.”

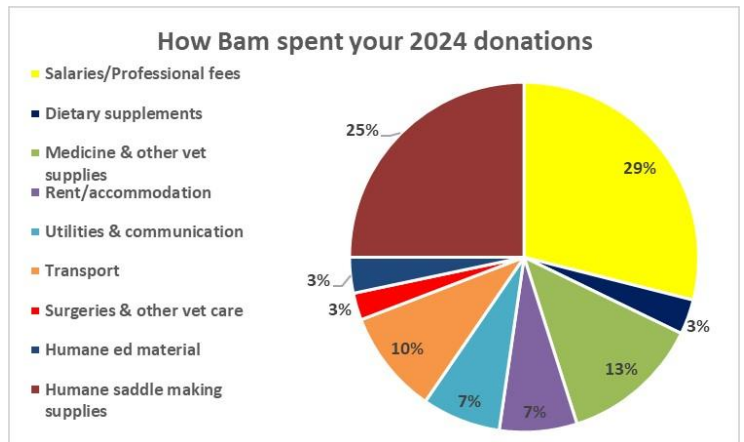


(Photos: feeding community dogs at Doggy Tuesday → and 2 of the many regulars at Doggy Tuesday, Zhiko and his dog Obama ←)



Bam Animal Clinics-Uganda: We provided close to 100% of the funding for Bam’s donkey welfare program in eastern Uganda. Bam uses AKI funds:

- To hold community vet clinics, providing free vet care for donkeys, reaching a few thousand donkeys, providing the only accessible and skilled donkey care available (photo below, a November 2024 community clinic).
- To train donkey owners to make and use humane saddles. Each donkey owner gets to keep at least one saddle for their own use. Bam distributed

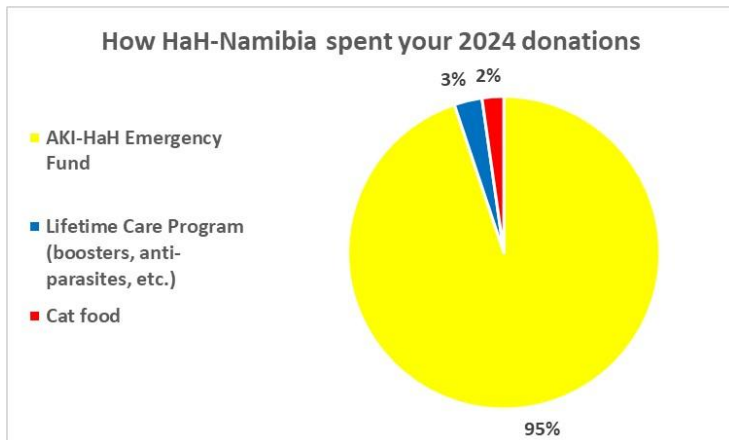


almost 300 humane saddles for free in 2024. (With 1000s of donkeys in need, we'd love to help Bam train and distribute even more.)

- For humane education supplies. In 2024, Bam included school visits during their donkey welfare work, and the team has reached hundreds of students to talk about the welfare and care of all animals, but especially donkeys, since these children will be, and may already be, the primary caretakers of their family's donkeys (and other animals).



Have A Heart-Namibia: In 2024, HaH-Namibia helped 36 cats and 28 dogs through the AKI-HaH Emergency Fund and 698 dogs through the Lifetime Care Program. The Emergency Fund



pays for vet care for pets whose owners are unable to afford it (having had their pet spayed/neutered or agreeing to s/n after the care, is a requirement for receiving Emergency Fund support). The Lifetime Care Program provides boosters and parasite prevention for all previous HaH s/n clients-for life.

Tjoko-Boy = Chocolate-Boy →

Someone threw a rock at Tjoko-Boy! Being an old HaH customer--he had previously been neutered by HaH--his family knew they could come to Dr Erna in Mariental and ask for help. An x-ray showed that his front leg was broken. Dr Erna put him in a cast, but as he also had a tick bite on his paw, she carefully stopped the bandage above the tick bite to make sure it wouldn't get infected. The plan was to keep Tjoko-Boy for 5 to 6 weeks at the clinic to make sure his injury healed. But that was not his plan!

He clearly showed Dr Erna that he was not happy, he had no patience for his cast, and he decided to take the situation in his own hands (or teeth) and take the cast off. But Dr Erna had fallen in love with him and put up with Tjoko-Boy.

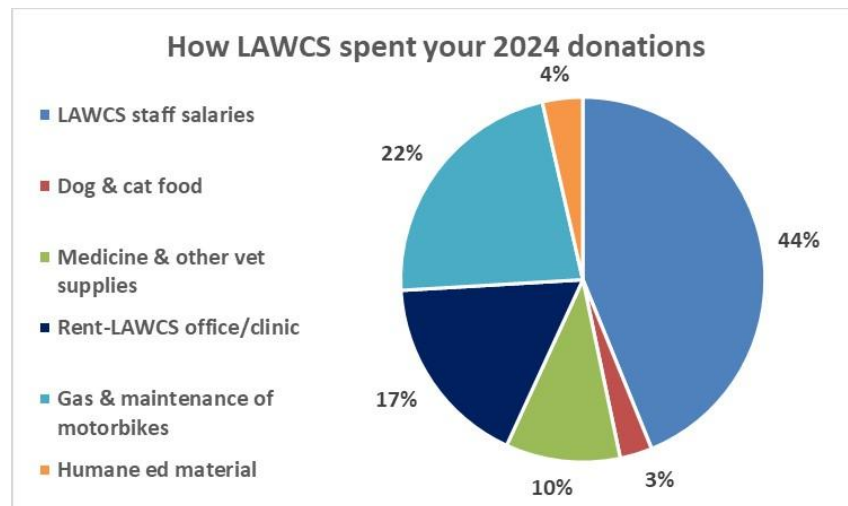
A couple of days before Tjoko-Boy was scheduled to go home, his dad came to visit and Tjoko-Boy was over the moon! He was so happy to see his dad, the whole clinic – actually, the whole street - had to listen to his happiness and complaints about the clinic—Tjoko-Boy is a very vocal guy! Tjoko-Boy wouldn't let go of his dad →. Obviously, he didn't feel the same way about Dr Erna as she did about him. So Dr Erna sent him home a couple of days earlier than planned.

From HaH's Geesche: "Thank you so so so much AKI for helping Tjoko-Boy. He might not be the happiest or friendliest customer, but he is so much loved by his family and his family loves him a ton and it is 100% worth it to help him!"



Liberia Animal Welfare & Conservation Society: In 2024, with AKI funding, LAWCS paid the salaries of three full-time staff.

These staff support their Humane Ed Program in Zorzor and their remote animal care clinics which are held throughout Lofa County, where there is no other available animal health care.



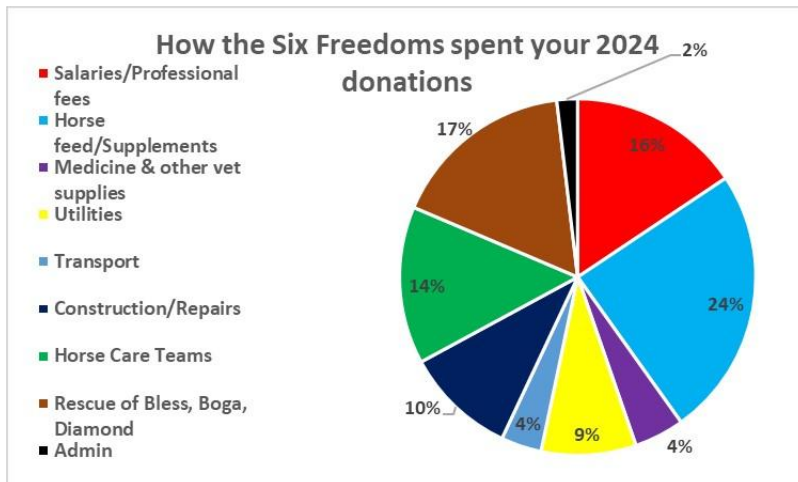
Young Morris is just one example (and there are so many more like him) of the results of the LAWCS Humane Ed Program:

Morris→ learned from his family that cats are witches, and he hated cats because of what he was taught. But his participation in the LAWCS Humane Education Program changed that. One day, when Morris saw a helpless kitten struggling for survival, he brought the kitten home. He talked to his parents about what he had learned about cats in Humane Ed classes and begged them to allow the kitten to stay with him. His parents finally agreed. Now the family can see for themselves that there's no reason to fear cats, and even better, they've welcomed the kitten into their family.

“This transformation is just one story of the many successful stories that have been made possible by AKI funds.”
 ~Morris Darbo, Founder of LAWCS



The Six Freedoms-Ghana:



In 2024:

- The Six Freedoms used AKI funds to pay stipends to the grooms who provide the care and feeding of T6F's rescued horses. Typically, in Ghana, grooms are paid a salary well below survival rate. With no respect for their skills and position, a very low salary, and forced to live in degrading conditions (horse owners often provide their housing in one of the horse stables), the grooms

take their frustrations out on the horses. T6F is showing horse owners that there is another, more equitable way.

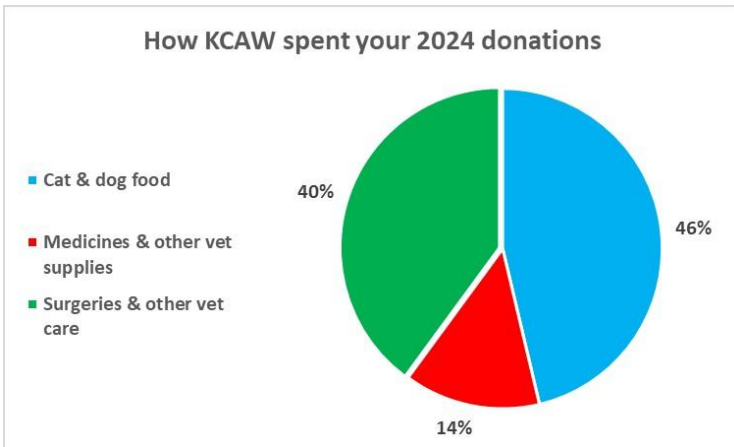
- We covered the cost of food and vet care for T6F's rescued horses.
- And something we're very excited about—we helped T6F create Horse Care Teams that inspect and assist at local horse stables—1st those in Accra, moving beyond there as finances allow (we provided 100% of the cost to-date, but with greater visibility of T6F's Care Teams and so much need, we know the costs could quickly increase beyond our capacity).
- One item that quickly became clear from the Care Teams' visits to the informal stables is that all the horses are in desperate need of a farrier, yet there are so few professional farriers. We hope to help T6F set up farrier stations in 2025 for about 45 horses working the beaches (taking locals and tourists on beach rides, even though the horses are often weak, injured, and poorly cared for). The farrier station would be a meeting point to strengthen connections and trust between T6F and the horse caretakers who use horses for beach rides.

This AKI Blog post (as well as others we've posted on our website) describes the situation for horses in Ghana, <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/the-6-freedoms-ghana-june-2023-horses-need-your-help>

South Sudan Society for the Protection & Care of Animals: In 2024, the South Sudan spay/neuter team officially became the South Sudan Society for the Protection & Care of Animals, the 1st local animal welfare organization in South Sudan. Over the last 5 years, we've raised the funds, collected supplies, and made a plan (which includes training by Kenya SPCA) to hold the first mass s/n campaign in South Sudan. The work was stymied first by Covid, then by changes in government, which have meant that the local team members have had to get approvals from Ministries several times over. Now, with a local animal welfare organization leading the charge, we hope 2025 will be the year the campaign will finally be implemented.

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN

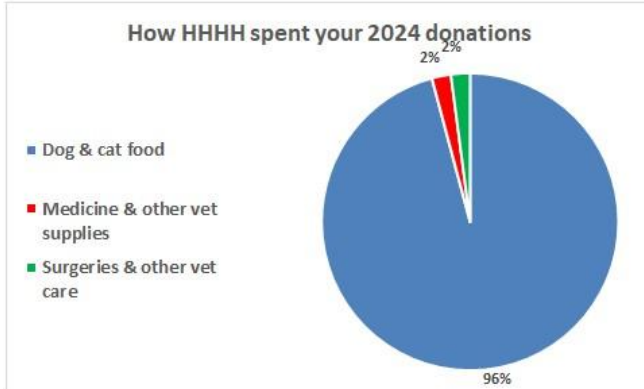
Kingston (Jamaica) Community Animal Welfare: As the only organization providing food and vet care for Kingston's street animals, KCAW used AKI funding to



- Cover about 80% of their total costs to help about 1000 cats and dogs during 2024.
- Spay/neuter 71 cats and dogs (44 cats, 27 dogs; 60 females, 11 males) living on Kingston's streets.
- De-worm, provide flea/tick prevention, and treat wounds and mange.

- Pay for vet care when treatment was more complex than what KCAW could provide themselves. Like for this sweet pitbull →, who was used as a bait dog to train other more “promising” fighters. Only an organization like KCAW with “boots on the ground” could have rescued this dog from the dangerous situation he was in and not only that, find a wonderful forever home →.





Helping Hands for Hounds of Honduras:

In 2024, about 90% of the total cost of Helping Hands for Hounds of Honduras's sanctuary and humane ed was covered by AKI supporters. Pilar (HHHH founder/director) has always mentored the next generation of animal caregivers, and in 2024, she continued to provide this assistance for Honduras's current and future rescuers.

For example, one of Pilar's ex-biology students (Pilar was an ornithology professor in Honduras) held a Pet Fair for students to show off their cats and dogs, to meet their friends' pets, and to learn more about what's involved in having a family pet:



2. Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program

For our seventh (2024) annual Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program, we received a record number of proposals from 77 eligible grant applicants! Thanks to our generous donors, we supported more grant projects than we did in previous years—a record number of 10.

The grant projects are described at this link, where you can also find videos, grant project progress reports and final reports, all of which give much more detailed information about each grant, far beyond what we can do justice to here:

<https://www.animal-kind.org/grant-program-2024>

Some of the highlights of our 2024 grant program were that we funded two emergency grants:

- A new electrical system for Nairobi Feline Sanctuary when theirs failed after heavy rains and floods.
- Donkey shelter repairs at Kenya SPCA Naivasha, which, in November, allowed the SPCA to rescue about 200 donkeys from the illegal skin and slaughter trade.

Also, thanks to AKI supporters who wanted to help our grantees do even more, we topped up 3 of the grant projects:



- Starting Over Sanctuary needed funds for vet care for donkey Deborah, who was rescued in Gaza by soldiers who walked 5 kilometers with her to the border where she could cross over. She was pregnant when she arrived at the sanctuary and gave birth to Bezik, who was born prematurely, was too weak to stand on his own, and had a short lower jaw and was unable to suckle ←. Bezik needed to stay at a vet clinic for several days before his survival could be ensured. The “top-up” also supported the vet care of Damka, also rescued from a conflict zone, whose leg was badly damaged and needed immediate care.

- Donors were so impressed with the work SPCA Grahamstown was doing in townships and other resource-poor areas in and around Makhanda, that they donated towards an additional fund that will allow SPCA

Grahamstown to spay/neuter and provide vet care to so many more animals for several months beyond the grant project. Together with the SPCA, we named the fund the Good D.O.G (Dogs of Grahamstown, but acknowledging the fund will also assist cats) Fund. See more here, <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/spca-grahamstown-completes-spay-neuter-grant-project>

- The AKI Board wanted to award a grantee who we felt could easily use additional funding and do so much good with it. We decided that Tanzania Small Animal Veterinary Organization should receive an additional \$1000. This will give them about two more months of funding to continue their project, *Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, & Return*.

3. “Friendly Audit” Program

We started the Friendly Audit Program in 2020 to link volunteers (mentors) with select animal welfare organizations. During the Covid pandemic, we had more volunteers than organizations requesting a mentor. However, since 2022, we have had the opposite situation, more organizations in need of a mentor and fewer volunteers. In 2024, we conducted two “Friendly Audits” and matched one mentor to each of those organizations.

4. Supplies to Animal Welfare Organizations

Besides financial support, AKI sends or carries supplies to our Partners and other animal welfare organizations, depending on donations we receive, an organization’s needs, and availability of a traveler.

In 2024:

- Thanks to Dr M in New Mexico, we delivered anti-parasite meds and other vet meds, and sutures from another donor, to Uganda SPCA.
- Also thanks to Dr M, we sent anti-parasite meds to Helping Hands for Hounds of Honduras and Kingston Community Animal Welfare.
- We sent Humane Ed material to Helping Hands for Hounds of Honduras and delivered HE material to Uganda SPCA (thank you very much to Lakes Animal Friendship Society for their beautiful and educational material for kids).
- We delivered a donated laptop and anti-parasite meds (again, thank you to Dr M) to our Partner Organization Liberia AWCS.

5. Other Animal-Kind International Activities and Support-2024

Site Visits: AKI Director, Karen, visited Uganda SPCA, and although in eastern Congo two times this year for work other than AKI, she was unable to reach Sauvons nos Animaux due to the ongoing conflict.

Pet Portraits: Our AKI digital Pet Portraitist continued to create Pet and Pet & People Portraits that donors can request when they donate at least \$15.

Digital Support: We are updating the Uganda SPCA website and we cover the costs of the USPCA and Sauvons nos Animaux websites.

Technical and Administrative Support: We provided technical and admin support to:

- South Sudan Society for the Protection & Care of Animals with their organization's formation documents (e.g., Constitution, operating procedures).
- USPCA for the Assistant Shelter Manager who stepped into the Manager position.
- The Environmental Impact Team that conducted the USPCA environmental impact report for their new shelter site.
- USPCA to develop shelter staff training modules.
- Most of our other Partners for a variety of needs (reference letters, proposals, brochures, and dog/cat adoption applications).

Communication with AKI Supporters: Transparency and accountability are key to everything we do. We uphold this commitment by keeping our supporters updated about our Partners' and Grantees' activities and how we and they use AKI funds. In 2024, we:

- Wrote/published 35 AKI Blog posts about the work of our Partners and Grantees.
- Sent out 12 monthly e-newsletters to AKI supporters highlighting the work of our Partners and Grantees.
- Re-invigorated our YouTube channel, AnimalsInternational, which you can subscribe to here: <http://www.youtube.com/@AnimalsInternational>
- Organized a group of nine AKI supporters (in addition to the AKI Board and sector experts) to participate in the proposal evaluation process for our 2024 Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program.

- Wrote GlobalGiving Progress Reports every three to four months for each GlobalGiving project (fundraisers for Have A Heart-Namibia and Uganda SPCA's new shelter).
- Were awarded Charity Navigator 4-star charity status in 2024.
- Obtained Guidestar's platinum level again (the highest).
- Obtained Great Non Profit 2024 status (check out the comments from our supporters and please add your own!): <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/animal-kind-international>.
- Kept the AKI website updated and creative-thanks to website developer, Deb Newman.
- Sent end-of-year email messages to all recurring donors (a total of 73, we think that's great for a small animal welfare organization like AKI!) with the amount of their donations and information about what their donations accomplished.

We continued to spend considerable time in 2024 responding to requests for information about scam social media profiles that purport to be animal rescuers or have an animal shelter in Uganda. To help guide people who ask us about the scammers, we posted an AKI Blog article and then updated it with additional information:

<https://www.animal-kind.org/post/update-of-our-july-2024-article-avoid-getting-scammed-by-the-animal-rescue-scam>

Raising Visibility: We help raise visibility of our Partners' and Grantees' work, their needs, and challenges. In addition to the above (Communications with AKI Supporters), other 2024 activities in this area included:

- An interview on the radio show and podcast, Radio Pet Lady, which was aired in mid-June and the podcast link (Helping Animal Helpers Around the World) is here, <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/helping-animal-helpers-around-the-world/id191116503?i=1000658999317>
- A beautiful article in the Heart & Soul Sanctuary (Glorieta, New Mexico) newsletter with several photos from Twala Trust and Sauvons nos Animaux of children with cats and dogs to highlight our humane ed work.
- In December, an interview by Community Cats podcast about attitudes towards cats in Africa, which will be live in April 2025.
- One session at each of three US Foreign Service Institute retirement seminars, during which we discussed the need for mentors for our Friendly Audits Program.
- An Interview by Hadassah magazine about our support to Starting Over Sanctuary for their emergency rescue and vet care of donkeys and horses in conflict zones, mainly Gaza and the West Bank. The article will be published in the March/April 2025 magazine.
- An article about my visit to Sauvons nos Animaux shelter published in the Anglican Society for Animal Welfare (October).
- Articles about our equine support work in Donkeys for Africa magazine and website.
- Awarded World Animal Federation Observer status.
- Participated in international fora about animal welfare in Africa.
- Partnered with Animal Defense Partnership, which provides legal services to animal-related non-profits.

Requests to AKI for Financial and other Support: As in past years, most people who contacted us in 2024 requested financial assistance. We received about 700 requests in 2024, more than we ever received before! We also received a record number of messages from people who contacted us about the legitimacy of a rescuer or organization, mostly about the Uganda dog scam (often several a day—see our blog post above). Other communications we receive are about cruelty cases, adopting a dog or cat in one of the countries where we work, and about volunteering with one of our Partners or Grantees.

The highest number of requests for financial assistance were from organizations in Africa. We also received many messages requesting support from South Asia, South America, Central America, eastern Europe/Balkans/Caucasus, the Middle East, and even from western Europe. The increasing number of messages we receive shows how animal welfare funding is always less than what is actually needed and also, that so many people do care enough to spend their time, money, and lives helping animals—and that gives us hope for continued positive change.

We continue to put 100% of donations towards animal welfare—for use by our Partners and our Grant Program.

Your support to AKI is making the world a better place for animals!

Thank you so very much—from the very bottom of our hearts! ~Karen Menczer & the AKI Board

