



2019 | Annual Lifesaving Report

The Year of the "Underdog"



10,794 Cats and dogs
cared for at BARCS

962 Exotic, wildlife, small
companion pet and farm
animals cared for at BARCS

1,481 Animals
fostered

6,597 Spay and neuter
surgeries performed

28,510 Volunteer
hours recorded

109,500 Veterinary exams
and follow-up
exams

90% Live release
rate for 2019

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Dear Friends,

When BARCS was established in 2005 as a nonprofit organization in the heart of Federal Hill, we faced a tremendous uphill battle. BARCS had replaced the failing Baltimore City Municipal Animal Shelter, a city agency that had to compete for adequate funding. Unfortunately, this meant that the animal shelter was often placed as a last priority. As a result of these limitations, it was woefully underfunded and understaffed, which translated into poor husbandry practices, poor customer service, a poorly maintained building and astonishingly low adoption rates.

To say that BARCS began with limited resources is an understatement. Our team worked tirelessly in our first year of operation to significantly increase the number of dogs and cats saved. Over the years, our dedicated and passionate team has kept that same mentality. In 2019, we're proud to say that we've helped nearly 12,000 cats, dogs, exotic and wildlife animals that have come through our doors.

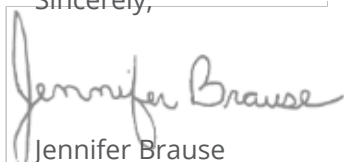
In 2019, we also made the very exciting announcement that we would be moving to a brand new shelter in Cherry Hill. This new shelter will give our deserving animals and hardworking staff more space to thrive. **With a big move and continuing growth in our lifesaving programs in our community, we've been reflecting on our humble beginnings—which is why we've decided to call 2019 the "Year of the Underdog."**

In our shelter, we have open doors and open hearts. We never turn away animals who need us. Many of the animals we serve require lifelong medical care, extra time to learn to trust again, hospice care, senior care or extended care to heal from abuse and neglect. We believe with all our hearts that even the most difficult cases are worthy of a chance. After all, our shelter was once labeled the "underdog" too, and that's why we've always fought extra hard for the ones that would otherwise be given up on.

Of course, we didn't do it alone. This incredible, lifesaving growth wouldn't be possible without support from community members like you. You watched BARCS take a major risk—whether in 2005 as a brand new organization or in 2019 as a nonprofit taking chances on underdogs—and you made your voice heard. Every donation, every adoption and every volunteered hour made a world of difference in what we could accomplish in Baltimore.

With your continued support, we're looking forward to another year of saving the lives of animals in need, of the underdogs, in Baltimore City.

Sincerely, _____



Jennifer Brause
BARCS Founder and Executive Director



Dog and Cat Outcomes Comparison Report

	2018	2019
ANIMAL COUNT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	229	232
TOTAL YEARLY INTAKE	10,784	10,308
ADOPTION	4,858	4,409
RETURNED TO OWNER	687	797
TRANSFERRED TO PARTNER AGENCY (RESCUE GROUPS, SHELTERS) ¹	1,466	1,377
RETURN TO FIELD (COMMUNITY CATS RETURNED ALTERED AND HEALTHY TO COLONY) ²	2,311	2,521
DIED/LOST IN CARE ³	61	87
EUTHANASIA - OWNER'S REQUEST ⁴	273	230
EUTHANASIA - ALL OTHER THAN OWNER'S REQUEST ⁵	1,029	1,010
TOTAL DISPOSITION/OUTCOMES	10,685	10,814
ANIMAL COUNT AT THE END OF THE YEAR (STILL IN CARE)	328	220
POSITIVE YEARLY OUTCOMES (SAVE RATE)	90%	90%

Chart Notes: BARCS calculates positive yearly outcomes and follows record keeping practices as set forth by the Asilomar Accords, a universal data matrix for shelters and rescues to track and report critical data. Asilomar Accords do not include owner requested euthanasia for unhealthy or untreatable pets when calculating shelter euthanasia percentages (see chart note 4).

1) As the largest animal shelter in our state, BARCS relies heavily on our partnerships with nearby shelters and rescue groups (both locally and nationally) to aid with our

high volume intake. These organizations take not only cats and dogs, but also exotic pets, farm animals and wildlife animals that come to our shelter.

2) Previously operated by Best Friends Animal Society staff, BARCS took over the Community Cat Program on July 1, 2016. As a humane way to manage the outdoor cat population, BARCS traps, vaccinates, spays/neuters and provides additional medical care as needed to outdoor cats and then returns them to their original outdoor homes.

(Continued on page 5)

2019 Outcomes:

2004 (before BARCS took over shelter operations):

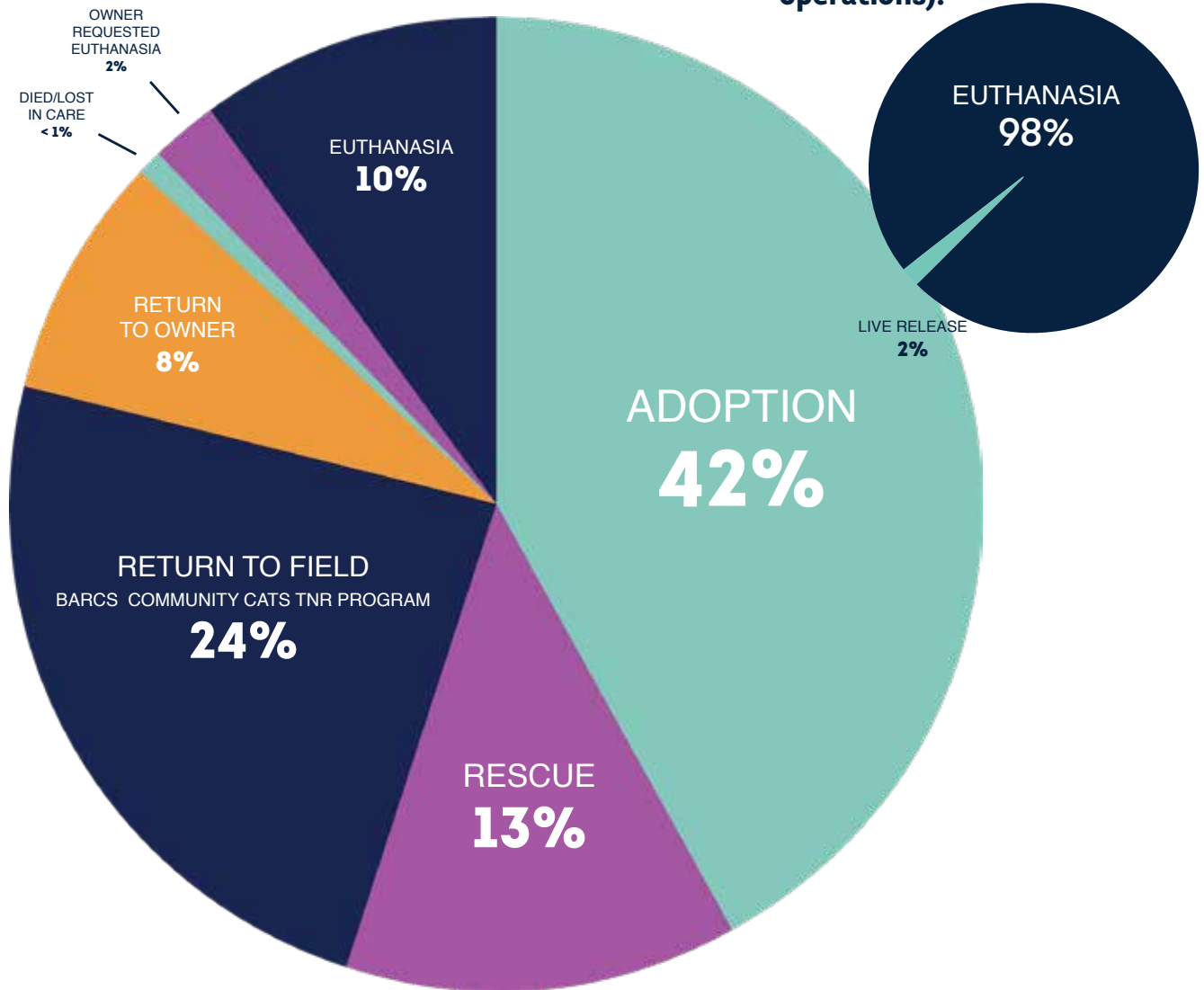


Chart Notes (continued from page 4): 3) BARCS is an open-admission shelter, which means that we take in and care for all animals that come to our door. Because of this, we get dozens of critically sick and injured animals daily. Our staff veterinarians and Franky Fund partner clinics work to save the lives of all treatable animals, but sometimes, despite our best efforts, they succumb to their injuries/illnesses. In addition, during the summer months, our shelter takes in hundreds of neonatal kittens. While most of these newborns are able to be saved with round-the-clock care and bottle feeding, some—despite our greatest efforts—are unable to thrive.

4) Owner requested euthanasia is a low-cost public service that BARCS provides to Baltimore City pet owners in need. This program is for pets

that come to our shelter that are terminally sick, suffering, unable to be treated or have a dangerous bite history. BARCS' medical team and program staff evaluate all requests for euthanasia, and if we feel those animals can be saved, they are.

5) The most common reasons for euthanasia are animals that are aggressive, animals that are seriously sick and unable to be medically treated, and animals that have reached the end of their lifespan. Also factoring into this selection is cost-to-save, foster availability and shelter space for long-term, intensive care. BARCS saved all healthy and friendly animals again this year and continues to save more and more medical cases each year thanks to donations to our medical care funds.

New Program in 2019:

Vets & Pets Program:

Veterans Fostering to Make a Lifesaving Difference

We recently announced the Baltimore Vets & Pets Foster Program with the Baltimore Research and Education Foundation (BREF). This new program encourages veterans in the Baltimore area to invite a shelter animal into their home for foster care. Grants secured by BREF provide all the resources veterans will need, such as food, crates, training (as needed), beds, collars, leashes and bowls. Veterans only need to open their home and heart.

Our very first big-hearted veteran in the program was Emily. Emily had joined the Air Force right after she graduated from high school. She did Cyber Systems Operations and completed training at Keesler AFB. Emily was discharged shortly after as a service connection disabled veteran. Now, she volunteers and does community outreach.

Emily learned about the program by a coincidence; she came into BARCS to potentially adopt a kitten. When she learned about Vets & Pets, she knew right away that she wanted to participate.

Emily explains, "I have a lot of previous experience with dogs and missed having furry family members in my home. The program helps not only animals but people too. Being able to care for dogs or cats while they wait for their forever home and being able to benefit from their company is a great opportunity."



Emily was first paired with Toyota, a tiny black kitten. Though she predominantly spent time with dogs, she found that Toyota was sweet, playful and a great cuddler. Her next foster was Moma Moma, a very friendly black and white dog who loves giving kisses. Emily was quick to say that fostering Moma Moma was an "amazing experience."

Emily says, "I'm excited to see the Vets & Pets program grow because I think it's a great benefit to both vets and animals in need. I'd like to not only continue to participate in the program but also become involved in other ways, such as helping other fosters navigate the program, assisting in general program coordination and bringing in other veterans programs and organizations I volunteer with."



Program Spotlight:

Working Cat Program

BARCS' Working Cat Program was founded after we saw a need to provide cats with alternative, positive outcomes. At BARCS, we strive to treat every animal as an individual and recognize that a traditional, indoor-only adoption may not provide the best quality of life for some of our cats. We are instead able to give those cats the opportunity to choose however they'd like to live—whether they want to show up occasionally for dinner and never be touched or decide to seek attention on their own terms.

The Working Cat Program saves the lives of homeless pets who otherwise would not have been suitable for adoption; it gives a chance to animals who might not have one otherwise.

There is no adoption fee, and these cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped and microchipped. Lastly, we transport the cats and provide all the supplies needed, including:

- Enclosure
- Food
- Bedding
- Litter box and litter

Since 2012, we've placed hundreds of cats in environments best suited for their needs. Here are just a few of the cats that are hard at work in their "homes."

Maryann and Ginger, Manor Hill Brewing

Maryann and Ginger were adopted in July 2019 by team members at Manor Hill Brewing. They are a bonded pair who were rescued by Animal Control from deplorable conditions. They were very scared and undersocialized around people. Although staff/volunteers were able to help them build some confidence, they tended to overstimulate and may not have been comfortable in an indoor-only home. The brewery placement was a perfect solution, providing the best of both worlds. They still have their independence to roam, lots of room to play and plenty of staff and visitors to visit with should they want attention.



Jedi, Private Farm

Jedi was adopted in May 2019 onto a private farm. While at BARCS, Jedi had an independent streak, which meant she didn't care much for the attention of people. She would easily overstimulate when our team would interact with her, so she wouldn't be happy in a typical home environment. Now that she lives on the farm, Jedi has truly blossomed! She loves being the "boss" of her farm animal companions and will sometimes make appearances for pets.



New Program in 2019:

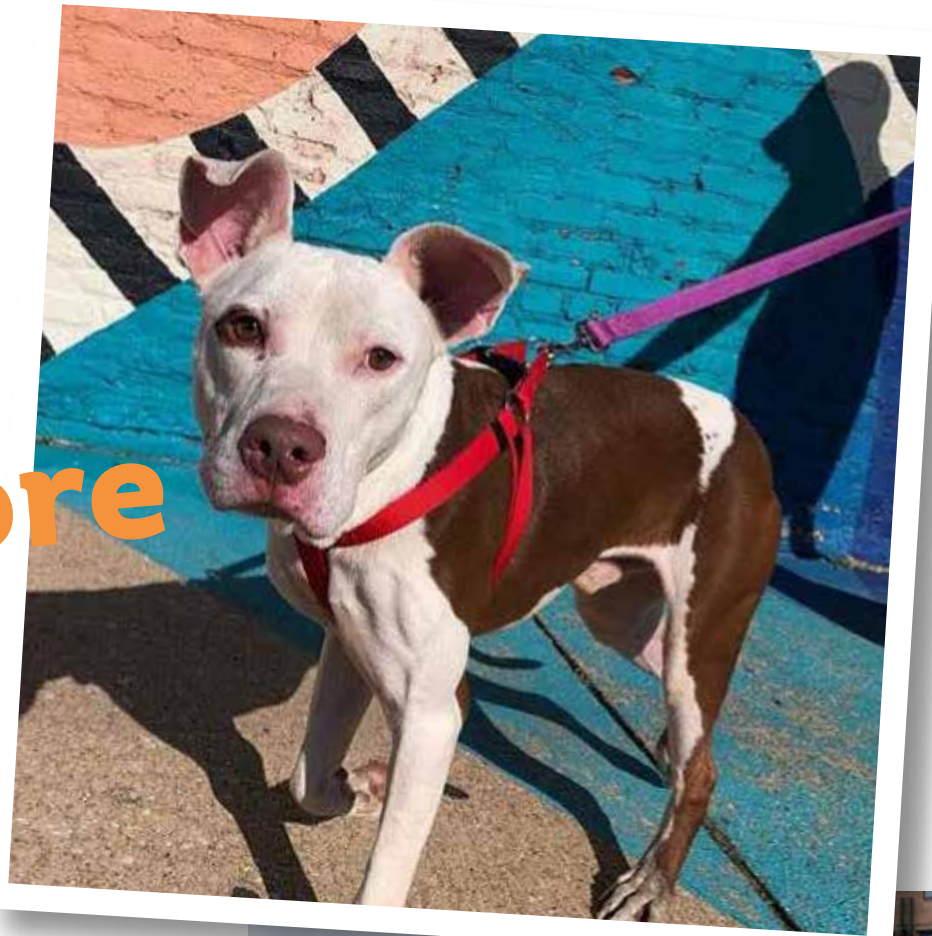
BARCS Around Baltimore

For corporate partners of our shelter and mission, BARCS offers a community program called BARCS Around Baltimore. These groups are invited to take a dog (or dogs!) in our shelter out for a morning/afternoon on the town. Oftentimes, these groups will get coffee, share an ice cream or just go for a stroll along the harbor with their doggy companion.

BARCS Around Baltimore is a unique way to give a homeless dog in our care a chance to literally stretch their legs while promoting adoption. When they are out on the town, dogs are able to expend built up energy from being in their kennel. Our groups also learn more about the dog's personality, which helps us to find them a home.

One of our corporate partners, Maxim Healthcare Services, sends a small group twice a month to walk dogs around the city. Their teams love walking dogs around Baltimore! It's a great way for their employees to bond while helping a dog get out of its kennel for a few hours.

This activity is currently offered to groups of 15 or less. All volunteers in the group must be 18 years or older, have valid health insurance and be physically able to handle large and often energetic dogs. If your office would be interested in participating, please reach out to us at volunteer@barcs.org.



Program Spotlight:

BARCS' Surgery Team

The surgery team at BARCS gives compassionate care for the homeless animals that come through our doors. These team members work incredibly hard to ensure that all animals that enter BARCS will find a positive outcome.

The BARCS surgery team consists of two veterinary surgeons and five supportive team members. Though their day to day understandably varies, the surgery team will begin any procedure by administering a premedication drug combination to help sedate the animal. From there, the team performs procedures ranging from routine spay and neuter surgeries to more specialized emergency procedures, including mass removals, enucleations and amputations. Once the animal's procedure is over, they can recover and, depending on how serious the surgery was, be discharged to go home.

On any given day, the team will work on 25-30 animals—each with the goal of working on the animal as an individual rather than an “assembly line.” The surgery team knows that it is an intense environment, but they have a great team that assures that they do everything they can for that animal to have the best surgical outcome.



2019 Year in Review

February 2: Beans Tackles the Animal Planet Dog Bowl

In early February, BARCS alum Beans competed in the Dog Bowl on Animal Planet. He was a fierce competitor who loved his moment in the spotlight! Beans was brought to BARCS in 2016. Animal Control found him covered in bite wounds, both new and old—he seemed grateful for his rescue. During his intake exam, our veterinary team noticed that Beans would not put his full weight on his left front leg. X-rays confirmed that his leg was injured, likely from previous trauma, and had not healed correctly. His leg doesn't slow him down though—Beans loves running around with his family and taking care of his family's foster animals. Now, Beans enjoys napping on the couch and hanging out with his favorite people.



May 19: Heavy Seas Releases Paw Power

For the first time ever, Heavy Seas and BARCS collaborated on an exclusive beer from its 15 Barrel Brewhouse: PAW POWER! This charity beer was released in mid-May at Pups & Pints, which raised more than \$8,000 for homeless animals in Baltimore City. "We wanted to create a beer with BARCS that would appeal to dog-friendly folks with an outdoor lifestyle," said Heavy Seas Brewmaster Christopher Leonard. "A light, slightly spicy wheat ale inspired by the white ales of Belgium was our choice to create a refreshing, low ABV, "summer is coming" beer that will make people smile. Orange peel and black currant puree adds a fruity, tart, colorful dimension to this canned homage to our furry friends!"



August 8: Kitten Lady Livestreams from BARCS

On August 8, BARCS celebrated International Cat Day by a visit from the one and only Kitten Lady, Hannah! Hannah went live on the National Geographic YouTube channel with our bottle babies, who the audience helped name Storm and Cloud. During the broadcast, Hannah chatted a little about how to care for and feed bottle babies. We couldn't think of a better way to honor all things feline on this special day. A big thank you to Hannah for stopping by BARCS during her busy national book tour schedule.



September 26: Miranda Lambert Visits Baltimore

In September, country music star, "Softie" and friend of BARCS Miranda Lambert stopped in Baltimore at Royal Farms Arena for her Roadside Bars & Pink Guitars tour. BARCS was invited pre-show to hang out with Miranda and her touring crew. We brought a litter of sweet puppies who everyone adored. Miranda went live on her Instagram account to give a shout out to BARCS and remind everyone to adopt, not shop!



Winter 2019: Prepping for the Big Move

This year, BARCS got to share some exciting news: we're moving! In spring 2020, BARCS will relocate to a brand new facility in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of Baltimore. BARCS has made great strides over the last decade, increasing the live-release rate from 2% (in 2004 prior to BARCS) to more than 90% in 2019. The expansion of programs and staffing to support the increase in saving lives has left our current facility inefficient, run down and too small. This new building will provide BARCS with a much-needed upgrade for our deserving animals as well as our dedicated volunteers and hardworking staff members.



Animal Care Team

Nearly all animals that come to BARCS will spend some time in our kennels. Some animals may approach their new, but temporary, home with fear and confusion. Between daily visits, food breaks and walks, it is up to our kennel team to make our animals feel as comfortable and loved as possible while they wait for their forever homes.

The Animal Care department is responsible for the care of all animals that come

More than anything, Josh enjoys working as a team with like-minded individuals, and BARCS has provided a community of people making a difference. After working in the animal care department for a handful of years, it felt like a natural step for him to become Animal Care Manager.

Josh explains, "I'd have to say what I love most about what I do is that I get to care for animals on a daily basis. I go about every day looking for ways that I can have a positive influence on an animal's life, and seeing them go to a loving home is the best part."

"I go about every day looking for ways that I can have a positive influence"

through our doors. The role of an Animal Care Attendant is generally split into two main responsibilities: the first is to provide animal care by cleaning kennels and by giving food and water throughout the day; they also need to closely follow our veterinarians' recommendations and special instructions. The second role is to facilitate matchmakes between potential adopters and animals that are available for adoption. Matchmakes are how animals are first introduced to their new families; they also help reunite families with their missing pets.

Josh, our Animal Care Manager, leads the team of attendants. Josh has been working at BARCS since the summer of 2011. What first attracted him to BARCS was the chance to work with and to have a positive influence on the lives of animals in need.

Over the years, Josh has acquired so many stories that it's difficult to narrow it down his personal favorites. The ones that stick with him are the animals that come in shut down and fearful. Josh loves being able to work with them every day so that, little by little, they grow more comfortable with handling and socialization.

Josh says, "To see that transformation and know I was able to help that animal through such a difficult time makes it all worth it."



Volunteer Spotlight:

Adrienne Bayle: BARCStoberfest

The annual BARCStoberfest, Baltimore's largest pet-friendly festival, has activities for everyone: a 5K run and one mile walk, shopping market, beer garden, live music, dog-friendly yoga, food trucks, costume contests, and so much more.



At its heart, BARCStoberfest is a lifesaving fundraiser for the homeless animals at BARCS. Every year, individual and team fundraising for BARCStoberfest raises critical funding for BARCS. All donations go directly to helping Baltimore's homeless, abused, neglected and abandoned animals. The top individual fundraiser for 2019 was BARCS foster and volunteer Adrienne Bayle, who raised an amazing \$7,500!

Adrienne said her secret to success is bingo—for the second year, Adrienne and a few close friends and family have thrown a bingo event with fun prizes. She also solicits donations through social media.

She adds, "I love BARCS and all they do for the animals. The fact that they take in so many animals and have been able to save so many lives is truly amazing. I love fostering, volunteering, raising funds, the TNR program and supporting others in any way I can for the benefit of voiceless animals."

BARCS Birdland Community Hero: Lisa Morabito

In August, the Orioles honored a Birdland Community Hero: BARCS' own Lisa Morabito. Lisa joined the BARCS team through a grant program with an emphasis on saving more pit bull-type dogs. The goal was to not only get more adopted by educating people about what wonderful family pets they make, but also to help pit bull pet owners in the community through low-cost and free clinics along with other resources.

Lisa is a passionate animal welfare professional who has dedicated her career to saving and improving the lives of animals and pet owners in Baltimore City. She has implemented numerous programs during her tenure at BARCS, and each program has proven successful in enhancing our shelter's ability to operate more effectively to maximize lifesaving.

Over the years, the Morabito family has welcomed more than 100 major medical needs foster dogs and cats into their home for healing and to find happy endings. She is the definition of passion and compassion and is a role model for animal welfare. Thank you for all you do for BARCS, Lisa!

Financial Report

July 1, 2018
through June 30, 2019

Revenue

Private Donations: \$2,338,938
Grant Funding: \$402,670
Special Events: \$832,724
Municipal Operating Agreement: \$1,227,786
Fees for Service:
- Pet Adoptions: \$120,787
- Baltimore City Pet Licenses: \$118,751
- Public Clinics: \$25,702
- Other: \$115,556

Total Revenue = \$5,182,914
Additional In-Kind Revenue = \$759,843

Expenses

Staff Salaries and Benefits: \$2,844,949
Animal Care, Food and Supplies: \$247,724
Animal Medical Expenses: \$435,143
Fundraising and Management: \$253,039 (4% of budget)
Restricted Expenses: \$1,115,720
Administrative: \$177,589

Total Expenses = \$5,656,418



We believe in fiscal responsibility and financial transparency.

BARCS has gone through many changes over the past 15 years. From new programs and projects to staff hired and a large increase in adoptions and other positive outcomes, we are always transforming and expanding to save lives. But, we are proud of one thing that has always remained the same: our financial responsibility to both the animals and our donors.

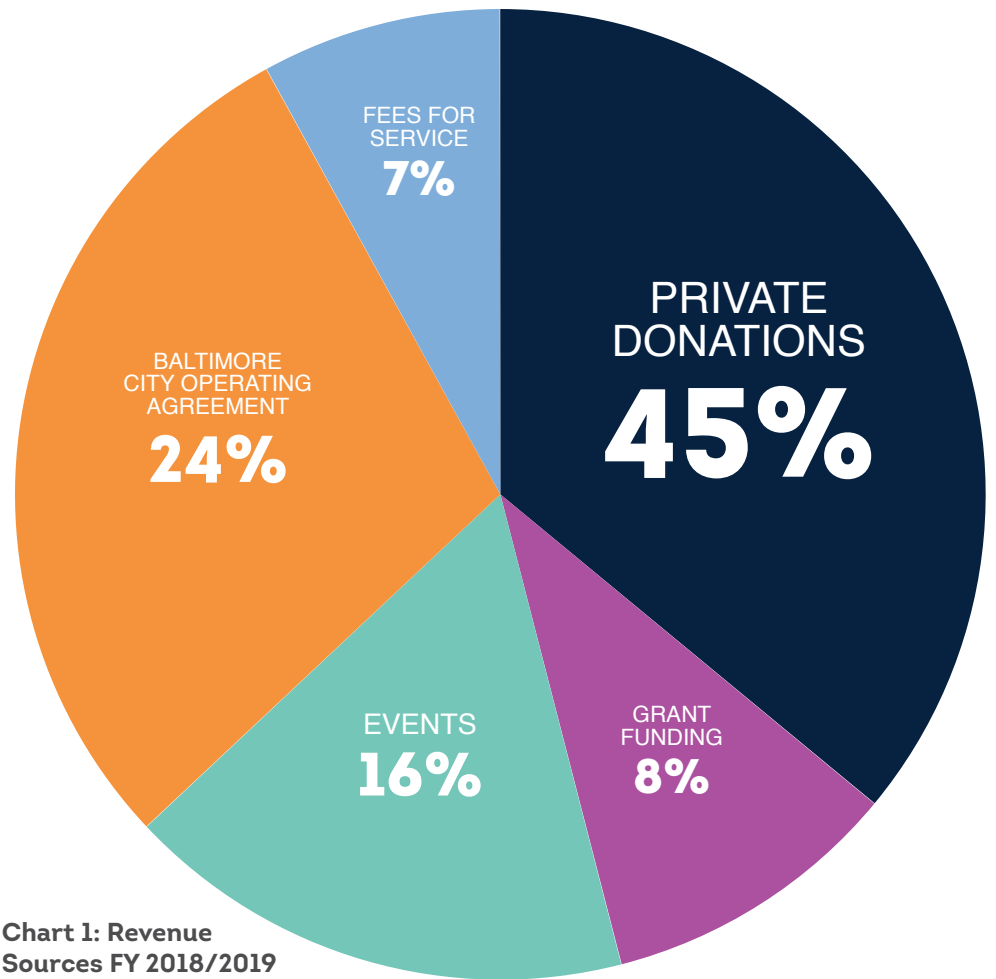
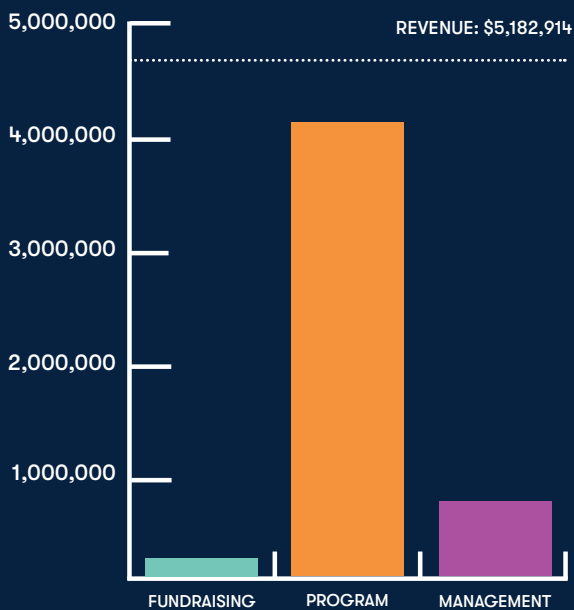


Chart 1: Revenue Sources FY 2018/2019

Chart 2: Revenue Compared to Expense Types: FY 2018/2019



In chart 1 (above), you can see just how reliant our organization is on private donations, event attendance and grant funding (restricted private donations, often program specific) from our community. This fiscal year, private donations grew from 36% to 45% to support our lifesaving programs and the care of our animals.

In chart 2 (left), you can see that BARCS focused the majority of our funding on animal care and programs that support saving lives. Since our inception, BARCS' fundraising expense percentage has remained lower than the industry standard (<20%). This year, our fundraising expenses were just 4%, meaning that

for every \$1 you give to BARCS, \$0.96 is allocated directly to helping animals in need.

4%



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The 2019 Annual Lifesaving Report is written and designed in house by BARCS Community Engagement team members.