

CHEROKEE
COUNTY ANIMAL
SHELTER &
RESCUE



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Date
JANUARY 2026





CHEROKEE COUNTY ANIMAL
SHELTER & RESCUE

Executive Summary



Overview of rescue operations...

For decades leading up to Fall of 2024, the Cherokee County Animal Shelter only served Cherokee County through housing animals brought into the shelter. The Humane Society of Cherokee County, a non-profit organization, financed and facilitated regular vetting and emergency vetting as well as all rescue and adoption placements of cats and dogs. When the Humane Society of Cherokee County discontinued its services for the animals housed at the shelter, a choice had to be made by management at the Cherokee County Animal Shelter. They could either continue only housing animals until their required hold time was up then euthanize to make more space or they could transition into serving Cherokee County in a rescue capacity in addition to housing the animals and save as many as feasibly possible from euthanasia. Cherokee County Government continues only to fund shelter housing operations to serve the public by having a place stray, feral, aggressive, sick, and surrendered animals can go. Cherokee County remains an open intake shelter, meaning no animals are turned away and serves Town of Blacksburg, City of Gaffney, and all unincorporated areas of Cherokee County.

In addition to this, Cherokee County shelter staff also facilitate animal adoptions, rescues, vetting, events, and animal welfare improvement as much as feasible through donations with a model similar to a humane society. 2025 was the year this work began from scratch for the Cherokee County Animal Shelter & Rescue.

Major milestones achieved

01

**\$98,115.07 in
Donations**

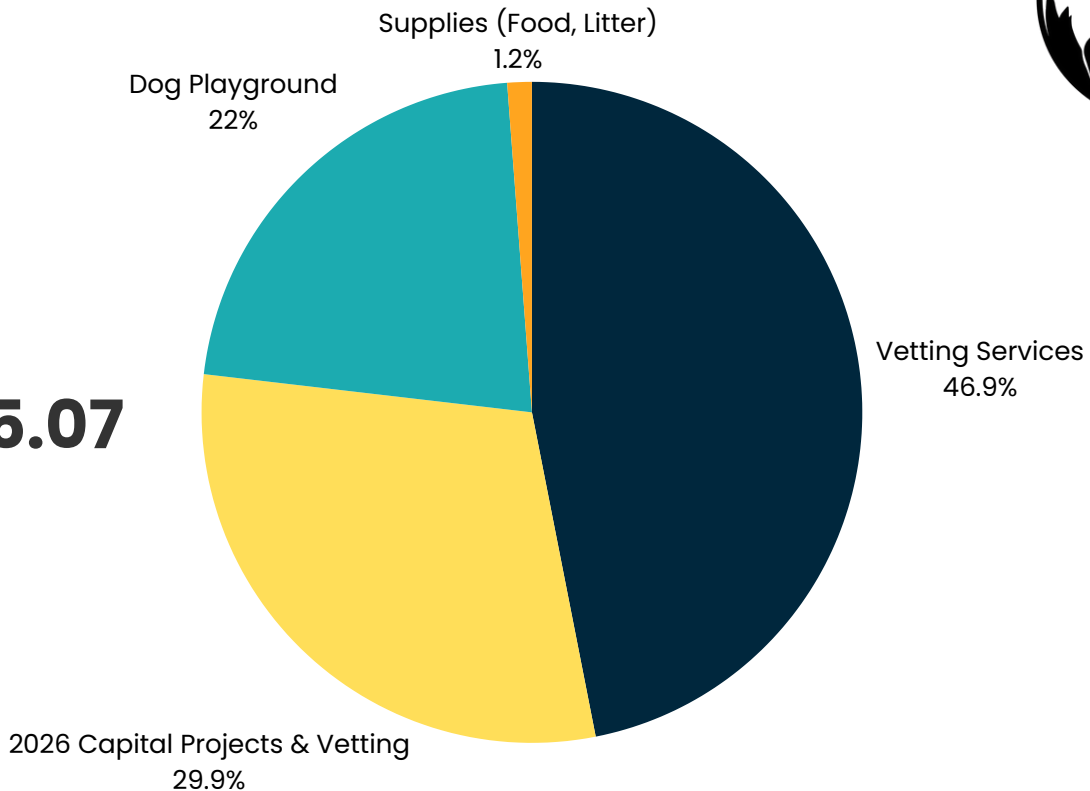
02

**483 Animals
Given a Second
Chance**

2025 Cherokee County Animal Rescue Donations



\$98,115.07



Supplies (Litter, Food) ----- \$1,202.93

In Cherokee County's 2025-2026 budget, more funding was allocated to the Shelter's food and supplies line item. This allowed less donation funding required for feeding and supplies and more funding was able to go towards vetting services, sponsoring rescues/adoptions for more animals. Our community has also donated animal food and needed supplies in massive amounts to the shelter in 2025.

Vetting Services ----- \$46,165.37

All animals leaving the Cherokee County Animal Shelter heading to a new family are required to be spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for heartworms and various diseases, and fully vaccinated. Some of our rescue partners pay for these services themselves for animals pulled from the shelter, but overall, vetting to head to their forever home is our largest expense. Our adoption fees cover approximately half of these service costs. The remainder is supported through our community's donations. We also have been able to help more animals in emergency situations and with complicated health conditions such as heartworms this year with donations.

Dog Playground ----- \$21,159.52

Cherokee County received an extremely generous donation from Carol Foley in 2025 to complete a transformational dog playground project on the grounds of the Animal Shelter. This project is currently underway. With an open intake animal shelter, keeping disease such as Parvo down is a daily challenge. As of today, the animals can't leave their kennel areas to play in a larger environment because regular grass holds onto diseases and cannot be properly sanitized. This playground project will provide a space for animals to spend time outside of their kennels and stretch their legs, meet and greet with their future families, and allow volunteers to work on dog's socialization to make them more adoptable. The turf being put into this space is made specifically for animal shelters and can be sanitized between dogs properly to keep disease spread down.



Going into 2026...

With almost \$30,000.00 in the rescue fund going into 2026 and a mission to continue fundraising for our animals, we plan to work harder for animal welfare than ever before in Cherokee County while keeping reserves for emergency situations that will arise.

\$1,000.00

Placing a privacy barrier around the dog playground, stocking the playground with a puppy pool and stimulation toys, and placing overhead shades at the playground.

\$9,000.00

Expansion of a cat room to allow for more capacity for our kitty friends.

\$2,500.00

A standalone microchip station outside of the animal shelter to allow for anyone within the community that comes across a lost animal to scan for a microchip outside of regular business hours.

\$4,500.00

Continuing the Pets for Vets Program and facilitate 10 more waived adoptions in 2026 for veterans.

\$1,500.00

Organize and advertise 4 more Saturday Adoption Events in 2026.

\$12,000.00

Purchase 100 raised dog beds to allow them to be off of the concrete floor and create a cleaner kennel space.

\$7,000.00

Turf the small area outside of the adoption floor kennels for a dedicated outdoor meet and greet space at the front of the building.

\$9,000.00

Animals coming into the shelter heartworm positive is an epidemic. Many of these animals are friendly and adoptable, and the expensive treatment of heartworms becomes the barrier to find them a forever home. This year, we were able to treat 6 animals at the shelter for heartworms. Our goal for 2026 is to triple this number.

ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE, WE MUST RAISE FUNDING TO CONTINUE OUR RESCUE AND ADOPTION EFFORTS IN 2026. ADOPTION FEES COVER HALF AND SOMETIMES LESS THAN THAT OF THE VETTING REQUIRED TO BE ADOPTED. OUR GOAL IN 2026 IS TO KEEP THE FUNDRAISING MOMENTUM GOING TO KEEP GIVING ANIMALS A SECOND CHANCE AND TO IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE IN CHEROKEE COUNTY



Animals Rescued in 2025

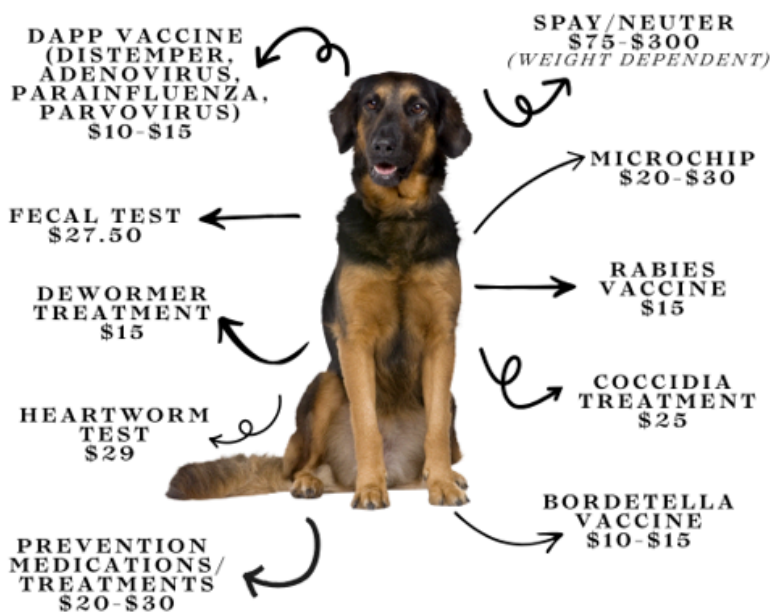
165 CATS

given a second chance through rescue or adoption.

318 DOGS

given a second chance through rescue or adoption.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE ADOPTION FEE OF A CHEROKEE COUNTY SHELTER DOG?



TOTAL VALUE= \$246.50 - \$501.50

YOUR COST= \$165.00
LIFETIME OF LOVE = PRICELESS

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE ADOPTION FEE OF A CHEROKEE COUNTY SHELTER CAT?



TOTAL VALUE= \$209.80 - \$242.80

YOUR COST= \$95.00
LIFETIME OF LOVE = PRICELESS



483
ANIMALS
SAVED IN
2025

