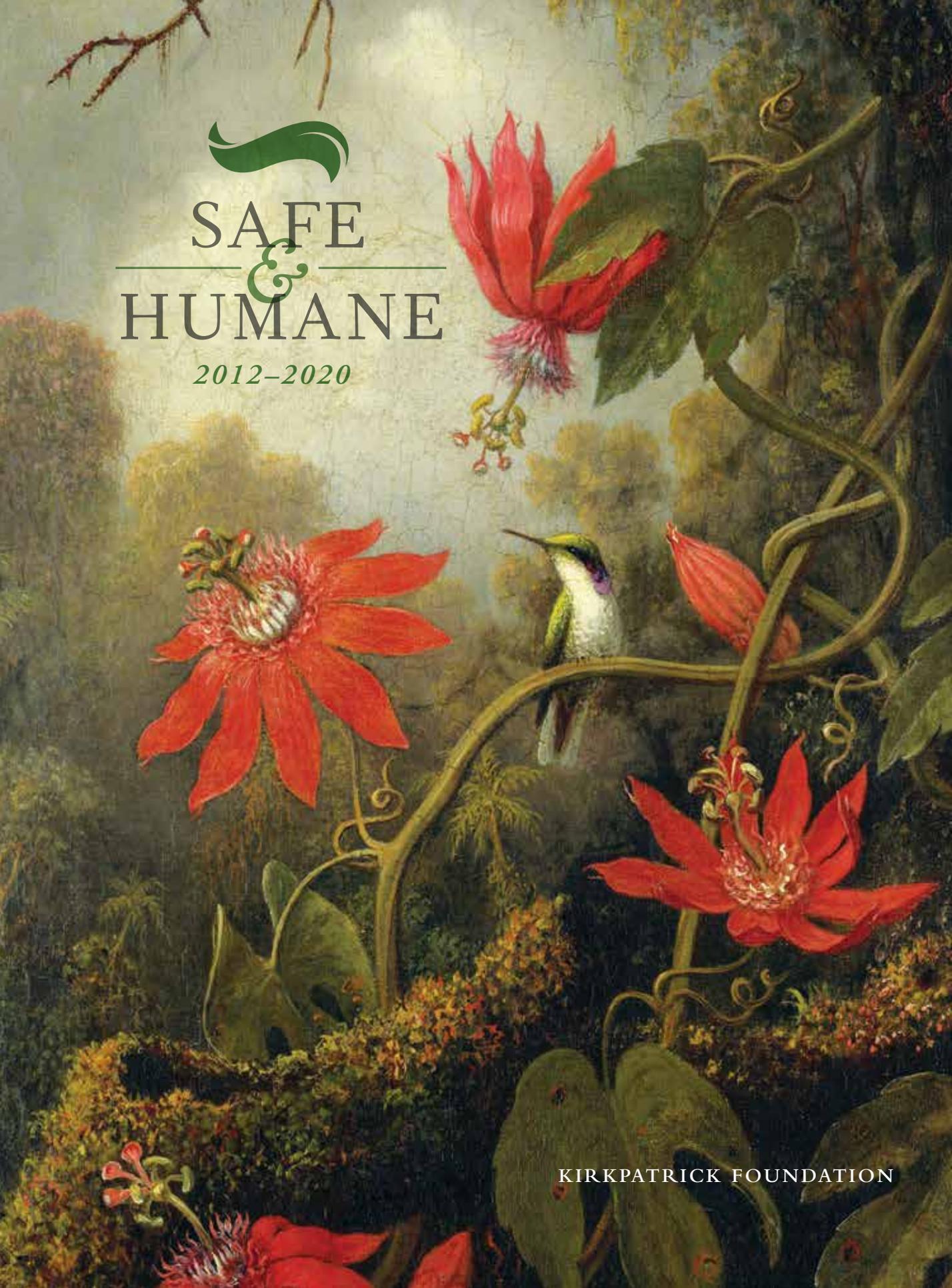


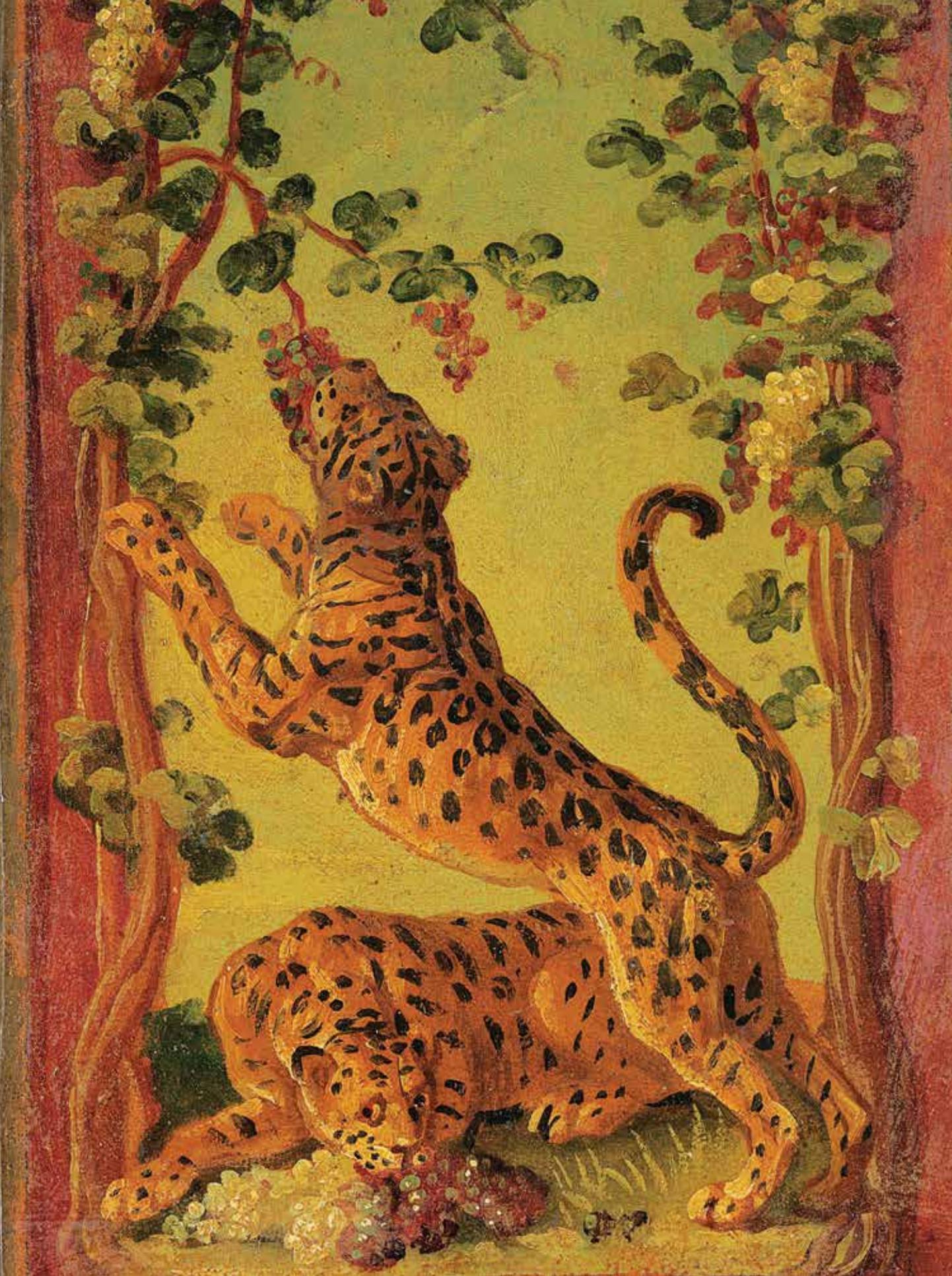


SAFE
— & —
HUMANE

2012–2020



KIRKPATRICK FOUNDATION




SAFE
&
HUMANE
2012–2020

*“Any glimpse into the life of
an animal quickens our own
and makes it so much larger
and better in every way.”*

—JOHN MUIR

By Manda Overturf Shank

*Design by Steven Walker
Edited by Louisa McCune,
Kristy Wicker, and Veronica Pasfield
Image research by Alana Salisbury*

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INTRODUCTION

In July 2012, the publication of *Safe & Humane, A New Vision* publicly announced Kirkpatrick Foundation's goal to make Oklahoma the safest and most humane place to be an animal by the year 2032. The start of this Safe & Humane initiative focused and broadened the foundation's sixty-year history of supporting organizations to achieve a high standard of wellbeing for Oklahoma animals.

Following this tradition, the initiative's core vision is based in both compassion and logic. Animals are living, sentient beings. Science and personal observation have proven these beings have emotions and are capable of close relationships with other animal species and, of course, with humankind.

Guided by the framework laid out in the 2012 publication, the foundation has since utilized the strategies of studying, convening, honoring, promoting, publishing, facilitating, and funding to improve both the lives of Oklahoma animals and, in turn, the people who care for them. Through this multipronged approach, the foundation strives to work closely with, learn from, and support Oklahomans who devote time and skill to Oklahoma animals and who, in turn, create a culture of compassion to improve communities throughout the state.

Through Safe & Humane, Kirkpatrick Foundation has sought to advance the conversation of Oklahoma animal wellbeing. While many animal-related issues will need ongoing review to create positive progress in the state, we hope the work highlighted in this publication serves as a source of momentum for continued improvement in the lives of Oklahoma animals. In this ninth year of the initiative, we pause to look back on the progress that has been accomplished throughout the state in recent years and what objectives remain to shape a more safe and humane Oklahoma.



MILESTONES, MEASUREMENTS, AND RANKINGS



More than a third of the way to our 2032 goal, the Safe & Humane initiative has made significant strides. Following the values of the Five Freedoms, the global gold standard for animal welfare established in the United Kingdom in 1965, Kirkpatrick Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to proactively seek and support advocacy that keeps Oklahoma animals free of intentional pain and injury, discomfort, hunger and thirst, fear and distress, and, furthermore, allowed the ability to express normal behavior. As outlined in this report, wellbeing for Oklahoma animals has progressed in important ways thanks to literally hundreds of nonprofit, foundation, and government entities. This reports looks at several of those gains and the current picture.

The development of the Common Bonds leadership project (started in 2018) and the growth of membership in the Oklahoma Link Coalition (formed in 2014) epitomize how passionate individuals and organizations work independently but come together to amplify the impact of their shared missions. Additionally, though gas chambers are still legal in Oklahoma, their use is nonexistent thanks to the work of several collaborating organizations, including the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

In past decades, research has demonstrated the strong connection between animal and human abuse. Kirkpatrick Foundation's primary mechanism to address this has been through its creation and oversight of the Oklahoma Link Coalition, which dedicates itself to mitigation of this troubling dynamic. Also, the creation of an informational manual (2017) for Oklahoma's veterinary and legal communities outlines research, protocols, and possible responses when encountering violence against animals and identifying related

human abuse. Kirkpatrick Foundation also funded kennel resources at safe houses—research shows abused individuals often refuse to flee a violent home when they fear for the welfare of animals left behind.

The nonpartisan work of Kirkpatrick Foundation surrounding State Question 777 was instrumental in educating the public about the outcomes related to the passage of the proposed constitutional amendment. In 2019, the relocation of Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue exponentially broadened the organization's resources to aid abused and neglected horses in Oklahoma. Elsewhere, the development of new conservation areas by the Nature Conservancy enhanced wildlife habitat in the state.

While many improvements have been made, much work remains to be done. Myriad, serious obstacles still face Oklahoma animals, including lack of resources for pet owners in rural areas, enforcement of laws regarding animal fighting, the need for humane wildlife conflict training, private ownership of dangerous predators, and habitat destruction for all species through climate change. Kirkpatrick Foundation remains wholeheartedly committed to our work for—and love of—Oklahoma animals and the goals of Safe & Humane.



MILESTONES, MEASUREMENTS, AND RANKINGS *continued*

OKLAHOMA'S STATE RANK	2014	2016	2017	2018
Animal Legal Defense Fund	33	17	20	28
Humane Society of the United States	30	27	27	27

Prominent animal advocate and researcher Che Green of Faunalytics urges organizations to make data collection and information management “key priorities for their projects, organizations, and the movement overall.” In creating Safe & Humane, Kirkpatrick Foundation prioritized the establishment of historical data baselines, accomplished through *The Oklahoma Animal Study* and an attitudinal survey conducted by Lake Research Partners in 2017.

Measures toward that end, such as national animal wellbeing rankings and progress by other Oklahoma nonprofit, foundation, and government entities, all contribute to a more complete knowledge of animal wellbeing in the state in supporting positive societal change. Annually, states are ranked by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) based upon a broad set of animal wellbeing policies and laws. The ALDF rankings assess “the relative strengths and weaknesses of each US state’s and territory’s animal

protection laws.” The HSUS ranks states using ninety-three policy ideas related to animal welfare, from animal-fighting penalties and incentives for low-cost spay-and-neuter programs to improving the lives of farm animals raised for food. In the ALDF rankings, Oklahoma rose from thirty-third to seventeenth. The state made moderate improvement from thirtieth to twenty-seventh on the HSUS ranking from 2014 to 2016. Still, in the past two years, Oklahoma has either maintained its ranking or fallen (see chart). According to both organizations, this decline

isn’t due to the worsening of Oklahoma laws but is related to other states creating more laws beneficial to the treatment of animals. ALDF explains that other states have increased penalties for animal abusers and expanded legal protections for animals in dangerous spaces (such as hot cars). Laws supporting animal wellbeing are improving nationally and Oklahoma, while progressing, has yet to join the vanguard. The ALDF and HSUS annual rankings provide insight into how national organizations view each state. Moreover, the set of legal standards is useful in reviewing Oklahoma policy and was instrumental when determining the recommendations of *The Oklahoma Animal Study*. These legal standards and state rankings are only one element in evaluating the work of Safe & Humane. Not every project supported by the Safe & Humane initiative will generate measurable data. But the work of every Oklahoma animal advocate does progress our state toward a more humane future.

IN THE NEWS

Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital

“(The) gift is a tribute to Joan Kirkpatrick, who cared deeply for animal welfare, said her son, Christian Keese. This gift is an important and appropriate gift in tribute of my mom and for the health and welfare of the animals of the Oklahoma City Zoo. . . . We gave the first large gift, but it’s really a challenge. We’re challenging other people to step forward.”

—CARRIE COPPERNOLL, *THE OKLAHOMAN*

THE ANIMAL STUDY

“A group wants Oklahoma to be the best place for animals by 2032, but we have some work to do.”

—Matt Trotter, *Public Radio Tulsa*

SAFE & HUMANE

“We’ve made the promise to make Oklahoma a safer place for animals in the next twenty years,” said Kirkpatrick Foundation chairman Christian Keese. “The ANIMAL Conference is the next key part of that initiative in bringing people together from around the world to share ideas about how to make Oklahoma a safer place.”

—Darla Sheldon, *City Sentinel*

National Urban Ecosystems Forum

“As the urban population continues to grow and cities face climate change concerns, urban parks and open spaces are critical for providing healthy habitats for humans, wildlife, and plants. We hope to highlight transformative and durable public-private partnership projects that improve the quality of life in cities for people, animals, and the natural environment,” Louisa McCune said.”

—Laura Estes, *Oklahoma Gazette*

BLAZE’S TRIBUTE EQUINE RESCUE

“With over 140 horses in their care, the added space is much needed. (W)e’re going to be able to do things even on a larger scale. . . . We used to have to turn away owner surrenders because we simply didn’t have the room or the space.”

—Ali Brooks, *News 9 OKC*

THE LINK

“Today’s animal abusers may well become tomorrow’s perpetrators of violence against humans. That’s the conclusion of a growing body of research. . . . Forensic veterinarian Dr. Melinda Merck says a comprehensive strategy is needed to break the chains of the link between animal cruelty and human violence.”

—Kelly Burley, *KOSU Radio*

THE ANIMAL CONFERENCE

“McCune stressed the importance of dialogue between ideologically opposing groups not only through the Kirkpatrick Foundation’s efforts but also through the mission for the conference. ‘Finding common ground is . . . difficult, and keeping lines of communication open is one of our approaches,’ she said.”

—ZACH JACOBS, *OKLAHOMA GAZETTE*

OKC ANIMAL WELFARE SHELTER

“Really, from what I’m hearing, we’re going from a facility that was designed as a death row for dogs and cats to one that is designed to provide a far more humane place where they can get a fresh start on life with a forever family.”

—Steve Lackmeyer, *The Oklahoman*

Love Can Be

“It’s an anthology for our time— inclusive, sympathetic, and joyful. The contributors represent the broad, beautiful, and rich diversity of our nation, but there is something special that unites them here—their deep love for animals and their desire to celebrate them.”

—KITTY BLOCK,
President and CEO

The Humane Society of the United States

Disaster Rescue Truck

“The rescue truck can house up to 100 animals at one time and includes everything you would need for rescue operations. ‘It will have an ATV vehicle and you know when you’re facing the aftermath of a tornado you have so much debris and no way for people to get around,’ Red Star Veterinarian Lesa Staubus said. Only two other rescue trucks like this exist in the country. ‘It requires a network of very well-connected people that are working as a team,’ Staubus said.”

—Lacey Lett, *KFOR-TV4 OKC*

STATE QUESTION 777

“Oklahomans recognized this proposed constitutional amendment was rife with problems and nothing more than a corporate giveaway designed to benefit industrial agriculture and not family farmers.”

—Drew Edmondson, *Tulsa World*



PHILANTHROPY

Kirkpatrick Foundation was formed in 1955 and is an Oklahoma funder of arts, culture, education, animal wellbeing, environmental conservation, and historic preservation. Since the outset of its Safe & Humane initiative in 2012, the foundation has given \$3,961,743 in cash grants to organizations that directly help Oklahoma animals. Another \$1,626,684 has been spent in programmatic expenses, which include a range of charitable activities, from conferences and publications to certain salaries, leadership initiatives, consultants, and more. Since inception, the foundation has given more than \$7 million to animal causes and \$77.8 million overall.*

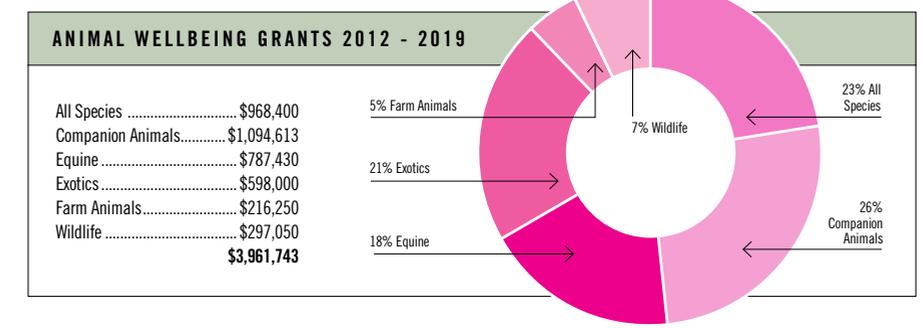
2012–2019 Animal Wellbeing Grants

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>4 Paws Lakeshore
<i>Love Can Be</i> author honorarium</p> <p>A New Leash On Life
Strategic planning; Humane College workshops; service dog puppy program</p> <p>American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
International Veterinarian Conference</p> <p>American Fondouk Maintenance Committee Inc.
<i>Love Can Be</i> author honorarium</p> <p>American Humane Association
Oklahoma region rescue teams; Red Star Midwest expansion; Red Star Animal Emergency services</p> <p>Angel City Pit Bulls
Operating support</p> <p>Animal Folks
<i>Reporting Animal Cruelty</i> manual</p> <p>Animal Grantmakers
Conference support</p> <p>Animal Legal Defense Fund
Operating support</p> <p>Animal Wellness Foundation
Animal cruelty law enforcement planning; operating support</p> <p>Basic Animal Rescue Training
Oklahoma emergency responders animal in disasters training</p> <p>Bella Foundation
Low-income veterinary assistance program; <i>Love Can Be</i> author honorarium</p> <p>Best Friends of Shelter Pets
Kennel support</p> <p>Blaze's Tribute Equine Rescue
Facility support; veterinary care; operating support</p> | <p>Buddy Dog Humane Society
<i>Love Can Be</i> author honorarium</p> <p>Canine Companions for Independence
<i>Love Can Be</i> author honorarium</p> <p>Cheetah Conservation Fund
Sustainable conservation through community involvement and agriculture</p> <p>Deja Foundation
<i>Love Can Be</i> author honorarium</p> <p>Domestic Violence Intervention Services
Kennel support; veterinarian services</p> <p>Enid Arts and Sciences Foundation
Crittter Clubhouse</p> <p>Enid Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
<i>Love Can Be</i> author honorarium; memorial donation</p> <p>Faunalytics
Animal protection research library</p> <p>Fetch Fido a Flight
Flight funding</p> <p>Food for Pets
Pet support project</p> <p>Free to Live
Memorial donation; Project Refuge</p> <p>Friends of the Mustang Animal Shelter
Kitten care</p> <p>Genesee Fire Protection District
All Hazards Incident Management Teams Association Training</p> <p>Ghetto Rescue Foundation
<i>Love Can Be</i> author honorarium</p> <p>Ground Zero
K9 Emergency Training Center</p> | <p>Home Integration
Rescue animal demonstration center for persons with disabilities</p> <p>Honoring America's Warriors
Wounded Warriors Service Dog Program</p> <p>Horse and Hound Rescue Foundation
Comfort and dignity for senior dogs</p> <p>Horse Feathers Equine Center
Horse training and feed</p> <p>Humane Society of the United States
Humane State program; factory farm educational outreach</p> <p>Humane Society of Tulsa
<i>Love Can Be</i> author honorarium</p> <p>Keystone Adventure School and Farm
Farm Fresh</p> <p>Langston University Foundation
Sustainable conservation through community involvement and agriculture</p> <p>Lutheran Church Charities
K-9 Comfort Dogs for Oregon Umpqua Community College</p> <p>Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
King of Kings Lutheran Church Comfort Dog program</p> <p>Mercy for Animals
The Glass Walls project; consumer advocacy to protect animals</p> <p>Morris Animal Foundation
Oklahoma State University Veterinary Scholar summer program</p> <p>National Disaster Search Dog Foundation
Search team formation, training, and advanced deployment</p> |
|---|--|--|

*These figures do not include animal-oriented gifts made by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund which total \$3,517,850, since 1996.



PHILANTHROPY *continued*



2012-2019 Animal Wellbeing Grants *continued*

- National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association**
NWRA Symposium 2016
- Native America Humane Society**
Love Can Be author honorariums; Tribal Link
- North Shore Animal League America**
Mutt-i-grees curriculum
- Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children**
Boys' Ranch Town animal therapy program
- Oklahoma City Community Foundation**
Second Chance Animal Sanctuary; Nicoma Park Police K9 Program; Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital at Oklahoma City Zoo
- Oklahoma Humane Society**
2015 Hero Awards; Community Cat project; Pets for Life
- Oklahoma Large Animal First Responders**
Livestock lesson training
- Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary**
Veterinary care; habitat; sustainability
- Oklahoma State University Foundation**
Animal Minute; blood assessment of Asian elephants; Operation Catnip; Pete's Pet Posse; veterinary technician program
- Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Foundation**
Pediatric spay/neuter wet lab; pet overpopulation program
- Oklahoma Westie Rescue**
Love Can Be author honorarium
- Oklahoma Zoological Society**
A Novel Urban Ecology Partnership; Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital
- Organization For Competitive Markets**
Education Outreach
- Outreach for Animals**
ANIMAL Conference support
- Paws Chicago**
Oklahoma shelter dog rescue transport
- Payne County Animal Response Team**
Water Rescue training; Basic Animal Emergency Response Training
- Peaceful Animal Adoption Shelter**
Love Can Be author honorarium; pet overpopulation program
- Pet Angels Rescue**
Adoption center improvements; animal care
- Pet Food Pantry of Oklahoma City**
Pet food support
- Pets & People Humane Society**
Financial audit; kennel support
- Pets Helping People**
Kennel support
- Ponca City Humane Society**
Love Can Be author honorarium
- Poteau Valley Humane Society**
Pet overpopulation program
- Project Chimps**
Operating support
- RedRover**
RedRover Readers
- Safe Haven Animal Rescue**
Operating support
- Save Our Monarchs Foundation**
Love Can Be author honorarium
- Second Chance Animal Sanctuary**
Healthy, Happy Best Friends Project
- Spay FIRST!**
Needs assessment for low-income pet owners
- Stillwater Domestic Violence Services**
Horses for Healing
- Street Cats**
Love Can Be author honorarium
- T-Town TNR**
Saving Tulsa's Community Cats
- The Children's Hospital Volunteers**
Dog park support
- Thoroughbred Athletes**
Care for rescued Thoroughbreds
- Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue**
Neonatal nursery renewal; spay/neuter suite
- Trust for Conservation Innovation**
Animal Agriculture Reform Collaborative
- Tulsa Audubon Society**
Love Can Be author honorarium
- Tulsa Community Foundation**
Friends for Folks educational documentary
- Tulsa SPCA**
Love Can Be author honorarium
- University of Central Oklahoma Foundation**
Design to Protect Elephants
- Volunteers for Animal Welfare**
Pet retention through identification
- Washington County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**
Kennel support
- WellBeing International**
Companion animal demographic study
- Wildcare Foundation**
Food and medication; Wildcare on Wheels; refrigerator/freezer; leadership transition support
- Wings of Rescue**
Oklahoma shelter dogs transportation
- Yale University**
Study of Mutt-i-grees curriculum impact in Oklahoma

PHILANTHROPY *continued*

From a state-of-the-art animal hospital to a beautifully designed campaign to save sub-Saharan elephants, these four examples point to the range of endeavors Kirkpatrick Foundation supports and exemplify the breadth of animal wellbeing work in Oklahoma.



OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO

JOAN KIRKPATRICK ANIMAL HOSPITAL: *Oklahoma Zoological Society*

Joan Kirkpatrick's deep love of animals remains a guiding inspiration for the Safe & Humane initiative. In her honor, Kirkpatrick philanthropies contributed \$1 million toward a new veterinary hospital for the Oklahoma City Zoo.

The 2013 donation was intended to spark broader support, and Oklahoma City did not disappoint. Philanthropists, zoo members, and taxpayers contributed an additional \$9 million.

In 2015, the Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital opened its doors. The state-of-the-art facility offers industry-leading care. It also demonstrates to the world that Oklahoma City is serious about its stewardship of some of the most rare, endangered, and beloved animals on the planet.

DESIGN TO PROTECT ELEPHANTS:

University of Central Oklahoma

The World Wildlife Fund estimates that around 20,000 African elephants are poached each year for their ivory. Harnessing the power of design and partnership, the Design to Protect Elephants (D2PE) project was created in 2014 by Amy Johnson, University of Central Oklahoma School of Design director. In partnership with WildAid and design historian John Clifford, Johnson assembled graphic designers and their communication talents to speak on behalf of the gentle giants who cannot speak for themselves.

Johnson says the project's goal is simple: "D2PE believes that there should be elephants. That's it. We want elephants to exist." Through the creation of posters and an illustrated concert, *Flight of the Elephant*, D2PE is committed to the global protection of elephants at a local and national level.



IVAN GARO



JOHN JERNIGAN

RED STAR RESCUE:

American Humane

With with an average of fifty-five tornadoes each year, Oklahoma is also prone to other natural disasters such as flooding, winter storms, and wildfires. The American Humane Red Star project creates solutions to empower communities to handle disaster sheltering and other animal issues that come up when natural emergencies occur.

In May 2015, American Humane expanded into Oklahoma through the purchase of a disaster truck and a trailer (one of three in the country) and the hiring of regional animal welfare specialist, Dr. Lesa Staubus of Stillwater, Oklahoma. With her expertise as a veterinarian, Dr. Staubus responds to disasters and hoarding cases to serve the people of Oklahoma and the nation. Similar to the mission of Safe & Humane, American Humane programs combine research, advocacy, and direct services to advance the human-animal bond and improve conditions for millions of people and animals.

ANIMAL LAW:

Oklahoma City University School of Law

Started in early 2019, the new Animal Law Program at the Oklahoma City University School of Law exposes students to the field of animal law through networking opportunities, professional conferences, and instructional classes. The project also includes public lectures by nationally recognized keynote speakers. "As an animal lover myself, I am excited to launch this new Animal Law program," says Jim Roth, dean of the Oklahoma City University School of Law. "Animal Law impacts many traditional areas of legal study, and I know it will benefit our students to have the opportunity to explore this specific area of the law." The school hopes to become a leader among law schools in the country that offer this type of curriculum.



BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES



THE ANIMAL CONFERENCES

“If we were sincerely looking for a place of safety . . . then we would begin to turn to our communities—and not the communities simply of our human neighbors, but also of the water, earth, and air, the plants and animals, all the creatures with whom our local life is shared.”

—WENDELL BERRY



March 30 and 31, 2015

Bringing people together can be one of the most effective means of social transformation. In conceiving the vision for the Safe & Humane initiative, Kirkpatrick Foundation determined to host a triennial conference for animal advocates as an essential element to reach the 2032 goal.

The ANIMAL Conference was created to serve as a public forum to bring together national and local leaders, grantmakers, and citizens of the state to discuss current topics affecting animals in Oklahoma. On March 30 and 31, 2015, fifty-six presenters and 334 attendees from sixteen states and the District of Columbia convened for the first ANIMAL Conference at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City.

National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore opened the 2015 conference with his signature work, presenting publicly at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art in downtown Oklahoma City. Sartore, known for his documentation of endangered species worldwide, brought home the critical concerns of animal well-being

by showing his methods, techniques, and reasons for *The Photo Ark* endangered animal preservation project.

During the next two days of the conference, attendees visited the newly opened Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Mindy’s Memory Primate Sanctuary near Newcastle, Oklahoma. Speakers during the conference included animal behaviorist Dr. Vint Virga, investigative journalist David Kirby, ethologist Jonathan Balcombe, legislative representatives, as well as other national and local animal experts, veterinarians, law enforcement officers, and managers of shelters. The first-ever cat café in Oklahoma was held at the conference for attendees and the general public to enjoy.

On the final day, Christian Keese,

chairman of Kirkpatrick Foundation, presented the first Kirkpatrick Foundation Honor for Animal Wellbeing Award to Natalee Cross. Cross is the founder and executive director of Blaze’s Tribute Equine Rescue, a horse rescue that has saved more than 1,500 horses since 2001. The conference concluded with a moving presentation honoring the power of the human and animal bond and the work of twelve service dogs from Oklahoma and across the US including the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs, Tinker Air Force Base military working dogs, and local therapy dogs.

The 2015 conference grew ideas, emphasized high-impact practices, and encouraged attendees to be engaged in their communities. Vickie Grantz, Enid SPCA executive director, noted the impact of the conference in one simple statement: “It was an excellent opportunity to meet and network with new colleagues to share ideas and successful strategies towards the common goal of improving animal lives.”



THE ANIMAL CONFERENCES *continued*



October 22 and 23, 2018

Framed by the dictum “Think Global, Act Local,” the ANIMAL Conference 2018 brought together the brightest minds in philanthropy, research, and animal wellbeing to encourage active compassion and advocacy in the lives of conference attendees. It included such global and local presenters as Tim Flach, a London photographer known worldwide for his ability to capture animal behavior and characteristics in his work; Ryan Tate, co-founder and president of Veterans Empowered to Protect African Wildlife (VETPAW); and Steven Charleston, elder of the Choctaw Nation and a retired Episcopal bishop.

The 2018 conference opened with a collaborative musical presentation, *Flight of the Elephant*, at a reception at the Oklahoma City Zoo on October 21. *Flight of the Elephant* was a production performed by the UCO Wind Symphony with score by Scott McAllister; illustrations by Jime A. Wimmer, Adam Coe, and Semin Park; and story by Sam Ladwig and Amy Johnson.

Presentations at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City included discussions concerning conservation efforts to end the pollinator crisis in the region, resources available to pet owners who struggle with homelessness in Oklahoma City, and best practices for animal shelter rescues, among other topics.

On day two of the conference, Becky Switzer was awarded the second Kirkpatrick Foundation Honor for Animal Wellbeing for her work founding and supporting the Ground Zero Emergency Training Center. Additional 2018 recipients included Cynthia Armstrong, Lee Fairchild, Dr. John Otto, and Brent Thackerson.

Under the facilitation of Priscilla Forehand, the cat café was again a feature of the ANIMAL Conference. Open to the public, the café included vegan coffee drinks, cat adoptions in collaboration with Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue and Pet Angels Rescue, and—new this year—portraits taken by photographer John Jernigan of those visiting the cat café with adoptable kittens.

Like other projects of Safe & Humane, the objective of the ANIMAL Conference is to progress positive animal wellbeing conversations within the state.

“The conference brings together professionals from all over the world, with different backgrounds and perspectives, but with the common goal of bettering the wellbeing of animals, not only in their communities, but around the globe,” said Jessica Rock, director of Legal Advocacy & Law Enforcement of Atlanta Humane Society’s Animal Cruelty Unit. “I was inspired by all of the amazing people I met and their drive to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.”

The conference is open to the public and gives Oklahomans an opportunity to discuss what it means to be humane. Moreover, the conference provides a forum to build relationships between groups and individuals across the state and region that can help create more impactful animal wellbeing work.

THE ANIMAL CONFERENCES *continued*



Although we don't have room on these pages to highlight each of the 110 speakers at our two triennial ANIMAL Conferences, these brief biographies show the range of intellect and talent on the speaker roster at the Oklahoma City event. Held over two days at the historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel, the ANIMAL Conference is gaining a reputation for quality content, informative breakout sessions, and inspirational keynote speakers.



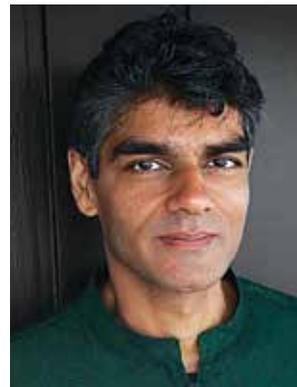
Steven Charleston
Episcopal Bishop of Alaska, retired

Steven Charleston is a Native American elder of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He is the retired Episcopal Bishop of Alaska and author of eight books on spirituality and three novels. Bishop Charleston holds three honorary doctorates, and in 2014 his alma mater, Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, named a building in honor of him, the Charleston House of Interfaith Cooperation. He lives in Oklahoma City.



Tim Hetzner
*President and CEO
Lutheran Church Charities*

Tim Hetzner has served as president and CEO of the Lutheran Church Charities since 2001 and oversees its K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry. This fleet of Golden Retrievers bring comfort to those suffering from tragic events throughout the nation. Hetzner worked for many years in parish ministry, governance, district-level leadership, and youth ministry. He also launched the Kare 9 Military Dog Ministry serving current members of the military, veterans, and their families.



Raj Patel, PhD
*Research Professor in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs,
University of Texas, Austin*

Dr. Raj Patel is an award-winning writer, activist, and academic with degrees from the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics, and Cornell University. Patel has testified about the causes of the global food crisis to the US House Financial Services Committee and is a member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems. The author of several books, he has contributed to the *New York Times*, the *Times of India*, and the *Observer*.



Ryan Tate
*Cofounder and President
Veterans Empowered to Protect
African Wildlife (VETPAW)*

Ryan Tate enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2003 and served in the Iraq war. He received a combat promotion and was recognized as his unit's Marine of the Year in 2005. Tate's lifelong love of the military and wildlife has been translated into action. VETPAW utilizes the skills of post-9/11 veterans to train anti-poaching rangers in Africa. His current work seeks to protect embattled animals and support his fellow veterans.



Jessica Rock
*Atlanta Humane Society's
Animal Cruelty Unit*
As the director of legal advocacy and law enforcement support, Jessica Rock provides expertise to law enforcement, animal control officers, and prosecutors from the crime scene to the courtroom.



Nicole Paquette
*The Humane Society of the
United States*
Nicole Paquette became vice president of wildlife protection for HSUS in 2013 where she works to end the worst forms of cruelty facing wild animals including stopping trophy hunting and cruel killing methods.



Christopher Leonard
Author, Simon & Schuster
Christopher Leonard is a business reporter whose work has appeared in *Bloomberg Businessweek*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. He is author of *The Meat Racket: The Secret Takeover of America's Food Business*.



Paul Schmitz
Leading Inside Out
Paul Schmitz builds the collective leadership of organizations and communities to achieve greater social impact through his roles as senior advisor at the Collective Impact Forum and CEO of Leading Inside Out.



Bruce Friedrich
The Good Food Institute
Originally from Norman, Oklahoma, Bruce Friedrich is executive director of The Good Food Institute, a nonprofit organization promoting innovative alternatives to industrially produced animal products.



Camilla H. Fox
Project Coyote
Camilla Fox is the founder of Project Coyote, a nonprofit organization promoting compassionate conservation and coexistence between people and wildlife through education, science, and advocacy.



Charles Siebert
Journalist
Charles Siebert is a leading journalist on issues surrounding animal emotions and the effect of human violence on other species. He is a writer for the *New York Times* and his writing has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Harper's*, and *Esquire*.



Joel Sartore
Photographer
Joel Sartore is an award-winning *National Geographic* photographer, speaker, and conservationist. He specializes in documenting endangered species and landscapes. He founded the *Photo Ark*, a global documentary project to chronicle and protect the world's species.



Jill Hoffman
Animal Grantmakers
Jill Hoffman is an award-winning communication professional with two decades of experience. Currently, she is a consultant to Animal Grantmakers, a diverse group of foundations, public charities, and other philanthropists who work on animals issues of all kinds.



Diane Webster
*Native America Humane
Society*
As president and CEO, Diane Webster draws on her cultural traditions, education, and passion for helping animals to make tribal communities safer. She is an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

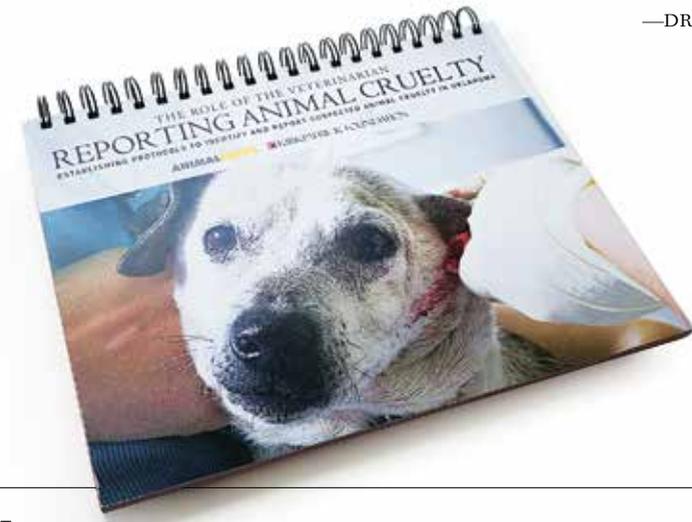


ADDRESSING ANIMAL CRUELTY

“Animal cruelty issues are of great concern for all of us, but especially for veterinarians. Our profession is sworn to protect the health and wellbeing of animals, and we are uniquely positioned by training and intentions to ensure that the animals and humans we serve are as well-treated as possible.”

—DR. CHRIS ROSS, OSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

| *The Role of the Veterinarian: Reporting Animal Cruelty*



More than 71 percent of battered women report that their batterers had harmed, killed, or threatened their animals in order to control and intimidate.¹ Notably, research has also shown that families of abusers utilize veterinary services at rates similar to non-abusive households.² Thus, because of their relationship with clients and their pets, veterinarians are in a unique position to identify and report cases of abuse they see in their practice.

At the National Link Coalition meeting in summer 2016, Kirkpatrick Foundation began working with an advisory team from Animal Folks, a Minnesota-based research-focused animal protection organization, to develop an animal cruelty reporting manual for Oklahoma veterinarians. In 2016, Animal Folks published a manual instructing Minnesota veterinarians how to respond if they suspect animal abuse. The manual outlines law and regulations pertaining to the professional responsibilities of veterinarians, protocols veterinarians can establish to identify abuse, and what steps a veterinarian can take to report animal abuse.

After months of editing the manual to reflect Oklahoma laws and regulations, the revised manual was vetted by a group of animal wellbeing leaders, expert veterinarians, and a practicing attorney familiar with Oklahoma law. This consultation process ensured credibility of the manual as both a veterinarian concern and a legally verified document.

The Role of the Veterinarian: Reporting Animal Cruelty was printed in early 2018, and copies were distributed to all participants of the 2018 Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association annual conference. Ann Olson, founder and executive director of

Animal Folks, also presented on the procedures described in the manual and fielded questions from veterinarians during a conference session.

To increase awareness and use of the manual statewide, all district attorneys in the state received a PDF of the manual in spring of 2018. The digital version is currently available to the public on the Kirkpatrick Foundation's website.

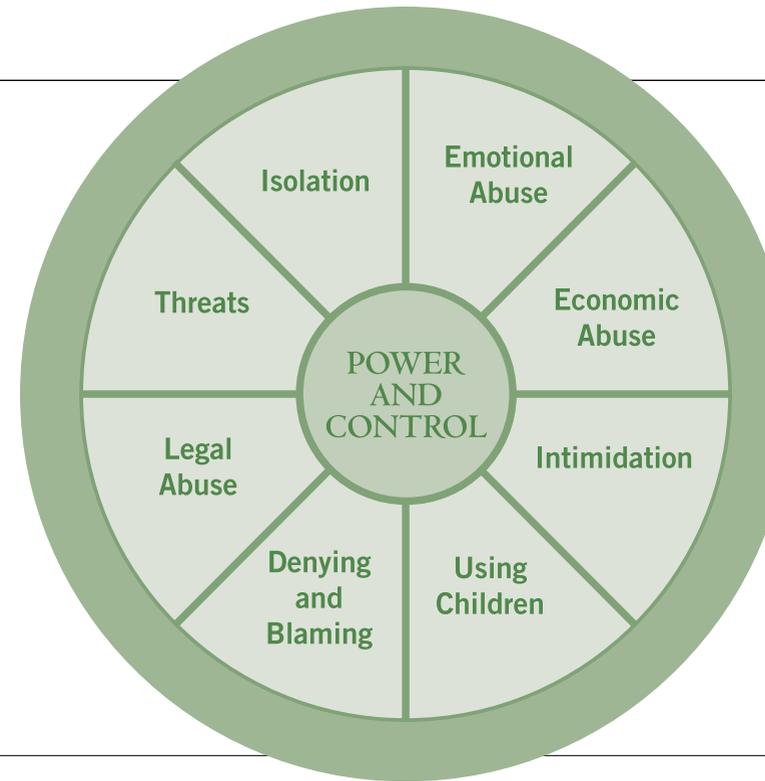
In pursuing the Safe & Humane 2032 goal, Kirkpatrick Foundation has confronted many disturbing aspects of animal wellbeing. While the foundation hopes that most Oklahoma veterinarians will not need to report potential cases of animal cruelty, we believe that in the interest of all Oklahomans, the role of veterinarians is critical to identifying and reporting violent situations for both animals and humans. The set of procedures outlined in the manual provides veterinarians with the resources and confidence to use their skill and knowledge to protect animal health, prevent violence, and relieve suffering of animals and people in their communities.

1. Ascione, Weber, and Wood (1997)
2. DeViney, Dickert, and Lockwood (1983)

R

THE LINK IS REAL

Research amply proves the link between animal cruelty and violence against humans. In a 2001–2004 study by the Chicago Police Department, 65 percent of those arrested for animal crimes had also been arrested for battery against another person. More than a dozen surveys have reported that battered women often delay their decision to escape due to fear for the welfare of pets or livestock.



MALTREATMENT
Animal maltreatment is “intended to encompass any type of cruelty, abuse, torture, abandonment, or neglect, regardless of the degree of underlying motivation or intent (or lack thereof) on the part of the offender. This is consistent with the broadening of the term ‘child abuse’ to ‘child maltreatment.’” (Animal Maltreatment, Levitt, Patronek, Grisso, eds., 2015)

OLD IDEA
“It’s just an animal.”

NEW RESEARCH
Studies have found that most species of animals are sentient beings and can feel emotions and pain similar to humans.

OLD IDEA
“This is how we’ve always treated animals.”

A BETTER FUTURE
Laws and society are evolving to what we instinctively know to be ethically and morally right regarding the treatment of animals. As society and laws change, so does behavior. Just because cockfighting was a cultural tradition in the past does not mean that it is tolerated or legal today.

The Link: Human Violence



REPORT WITH CONFIDENCE

“As with all elder-, child-, or animal-abuse cases, if we do not report the incident it is a secret,” says Lorna Grande, DVM, Human-Animal Violence Education Network. We believe the broader community also would be better equipped to assist abused animals with more awareness and education. With that hope in mind, we share some of the information from the *Reporting Animal Cruelty* manual.

- 1) Reporting suspicions of animal abuse is important, as it will trigger an investigation that may ultimately protect both animals and humans.
- 2) Early intervention may prevent further maltreatment.
- 3) Animal cruelty is a crime in Oklahoma and defined as: “Any person who shall willfully or maliciously torture, destroy or kill, or cruelly beat or injure, maim or mutilate any animal in subjugation or captivity, whether wild or tame . . . or deprive any such animal of necessary food, drink, shelter, or veterinary care to prevent suffering.”
- 4) Your role is not to determine neglect, cruelty, or abuse. Your role is just to report what is concerning you. Law enforcement will take it from there.
- 5) Document what you’ve seen, to whom you’ve reported abuse and when, and what happened next.

Where to Turn

“(A) law is only as good as its enforcement, and that’s why animals rely on citizens, including veterinarians, to protect them by reporting animal abuse,” says Cynthia Armstrong, Oklahoma state director of the Humane Society of the United States.

Report suspected animal cruelty to law enforcement. Depending on where you live, the investigation of cruelty complaints is handled by the county sheriff’s office, the city police department, or the local shelter.

WHO SHOULD BE CONTACTED?

- The National Link Coalition lists contacts by county for Oklahoma: www.nationallinkcoalition.org/how-do-i-report-suspected-abuse/Oklahoma
- Oklahoma Sheriff’s Association: www.oklahomasheriffs.org
- Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police: theoacp.org
- Oklahoma Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association: ospoa.org
- National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse: www.sheriffs.org/programs/national-law-enforcement-center-animal-abuse

PREVENTING ANIMAL CRUELTY AND TORTURE ACT (PACT)

Passed in November 2019, PACT is a bipartisan law that makes severe animal cruelty and torture a federal crime. The law specifically bans actions “in which one or more living non-human mammals, birds, reptiles, or amphibians is purposely crushed, burned, drowned, suffocated, impaled, or otherwise subjected to serious bodily injury.” The penalty for violating PACT can include a fine, a prison term of up to seven years, or both. This significant act allows for effective prosecution of animal abusers and provides standardized national protection for animals.



OKLAHOMA LINK COALITION



Over the past thirty-five years, research has shown that animal cruelty is an indicator of other crimes including domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. This “link” between animal abuse and human violence was once viewed as a tangential concern to be left to animal welfare organizations, but professionals in several fields now understand that mistreating animals is not an isolated incident that can be ignored. Under the leadership of senior pro-

gram officer (retired) Paulette Black, Kirkpatrick Foundation convened professionals from seventeen Oklahoma organizations in Oklahoma City on June 19, 2014, to form the inaugural Oklahoma Link Coalition. Participants included those in the fields of adult protective services, domestic violence, animal protection, social work, mental health, and academics. Phil Arkow, director of the National Link Coalition, led the day by introducing the group to the basic concepts of the Link and

explained how a statewide coalition would function in Oklahoma. In the months following the June meeting, the statewide group continued to meet and collaborate to increase awareness and educate other professionals about the Link. The group formally defined the coalition’s mission as promoting “collaboration, cooperation, public awareness, and education to end violence against people and animals by recognizing the link between humans and animal abuse.”



FOUNDING MEMBERS OF OKLAHOMA LINK COALITION INCLUDE:

- Best Friends of Pets
- Domestic Violence Intervention Services of Tulsa
- Enid SPCA
- Humane Society of the United States (Oklahoma chapter)
- Kirkpatrick Foundation
- Little Dixie Community Action Agency
- Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
- Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services
- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
- Oklahoma District Attorneys Council
- Oklahoma Geriatric Education Center
- Oklahoma State University–Oklahoma City
- Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
- Pet Food Pantry of Oklahoma
- Raven’s Rescue & Relief
- Spay FIRST!



OKLAHOMA LINK COALITION *continued*

“What we do to animals matters to them just as what we do to humans matters to them. Consequently, we should respect that mattering in our treatment of animals, just as we do in our treatment and use of humans.”

—BERNARD ROLLIN



In April 2017, Kirkpatrick Foundation appointed Kathleen Romero as the first coordinator of the Oklahoma Link Coalition. Today, Romero actively connects and supports Oklahoma professionals working in the areas associated with the Link to ultimately broaden the outreach of their rapidly growing voluntary group.

Building on momentum of the first years of the coalition and the installation of the first state coordinator, Kirkpatrick Foundation hosted the first Oklahoma Link Coalition conference, Intersection, on November 7, 2017. Held at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City and open to the public, the conference drew more than one hundred attendees, who heard from keynote speakers Dr. Melinda Merck, nationally renowned forensic veterinarian, and Dr. Randall Lockwood, senior vice president of Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty



Projects for the ASPCA. Sessions throughout the day emphasized the need for multidisciplinary collaboration to identify the Link in society. Lockwood instructed the crowd, “We need good laws, the general public, the police, judges, veterinarians—in short, entire communities—to recognize and respond to signs of abuse.”

Members of the Oklahoma Link Coalition now represent more than seventy organizations united in the goal of making Oklahoma safer for both humans and animals. Since 2014, these members have presented and distributed literature on the Link at several statewide conferences. Other noteworthy projects included a partnership with the District Attorneys Council to train prosecutors on the Link in October 2018 and the creation of a directory of domestic violence shelters that accommodate pets in spring 2019. In 2020, the Oklahoma



Link Coalition will release a video emphasizing the need to be aware of and report any human and animal violence that is seen by individuals.

Since membership in the Oklahoma Link Coalition is open to any individual or professional who might encounter elements of the Link, the group provides a unique forum for professionals in the fields of social work, law enforcement, criminal justice, animal sheltering, and many others to share resources and ideas on improving ways to identify, recognize, and raise awareness about the Link in their jobs. Simply put, the Oklahoma Link Coalition empowers individuals working together to stop violence against people and animals.

Looking forward in 2020, the Oklahoma Link Coalition is in the process of a network evaluation and moving its operations to a permanent home, affiliated with an agency working on the frontlines in these arenas.

A TRANSFORMATIONAL NEW ANIMAL SHELTER

“There is nothing like a dream to create the future.” —VICTOR HUGO



In its first endeavor, Kirkpatrick Policy Group (KPG), a new 501 C-4 organization, led the successful political effort to include a new Oklahoma City animal shelter among the list of sixteen projects on the MAPS 4 ballot. On December 10, 2019, Oklahoma City voters approved the measure by a landslide margin of 72 percent.

Louisa McCune, treasurer of Kirkpatrick Policy Group, served as Education Director for PAWS for MAPS 4. She joined Animal Welfare Superintendent Jonathan Gary to present the vision of a new animal shelter to the mayor

and city councilors at a public meeting on July 11, 2019. The presentation featured conceptual renderings by Todd Edmonds of HSE Architects.

Kirkpatrick Policy Group also engaged Oklahoma City political

consulting firm Civic Campaign Strategies to help develop strategy and manage communications for the effort, which was branded PAWS for MAPS 4. The campaign broadened awareness of the crisis conditions at the Oklahoma City Animal Welfare shelter and engaged citizens in a grassroots effort to build support for a new shelter.

In August, the City Council unanimously voted to send the MAPS 4 items—including a new \$38 million animal shelter—to voters on December 10, 2019.

The first MAPS vote, in December

1993, featured many popular initiatives that are credited with changing the trajectory of Oklahoma City, such as the Bricktown Canal, Oklahoma River restoration, the Downtown Library, Civic Center renovations, and the Bricktown Ballpark, among others. Subsequent MAPS iterations included Scissortail Park, the Downtown Streetcar, a new Convention Center, and improvements to public schools throughout Oklahoma City.

“With this new facility, the staff can reduce needless euthanasia, create a more welcoming environment for visitors, and a more humane outcome

for animals,” said McCune. “Humane cities are characterized by the presence of leadership, institutions, and policies working collaboratively across systems. To implement and sustain improvements in overall collective welfare, a humane city has policies and infrastructure promoting health and wellbeing that transverse all aspects of public life. In this way, the ideal forums are institutions that operate at the intersections of humans and animals, namely law enforcement, fire and rescue services, natural resource management, urban planning, and—most of all—animal shelters.”



JOHN JERNIGAN



THE OKLAHOMA ANIMAL STUDY

“To understand animals in the state, it is necessary to understand the nature and conditions of the people, their culture, and the land that is home to these animals.” — THE OKLAHOMA ANIMAL STUDY | *A Greater Understanding*

The Oklahoma Animal Study is a three-year comprehensive project to review the environmental and regulatory conditions affecting animal groups in Oklahoma. Business reporter and author of *The Meat Racket*, Christopher Leonard says that *The Oklahoma Animal Study* “is a groundbreaking and totally unique study of the living conditions of animals . . . I can’t think of another study like it conducted in any state.” Through this unprecedented project, Kirkpatrick Foundation established a baseline of the current condition of

Oklahoma animals to evaluate progress toward the 2032 Safe & Humane goal.

The two-hundred-page report, coauthored by independent researcher Kristy Wicker and Kirkpatrick Foundation program officer Manda Overturf Shank, is most notable for the breadth of information sourced for an entire state covering six areas of animal groups: companion animal, livestock, equine, exotic, wildlife, and laboratory. Based on the information gathered in more than one hundred interviews and extensive primary research of Oklahoma and federal animal law and animal

welfare topics, the study presents an overview of the animal populations in the state, what ecological and regulatory conditions affect them, and recommendations for improvements in life conditions for those animals.

The study findings showed that animals in Oklahoma face a number of obstacles. Key issues include overpopulation and lack of resources for companion animals, overpopulation and lack of enforcement of regulations for racing horses, intensive confinement on Concentrated Animal Feeding

Operations for pigs and chickens, urban destruction of wildlife habitat, weak regulations regarding ownership of exotic animals, and low public awareness of the conditions of laboratory animals.

Published in spring 2016, 5,000 copies of *The Oklahoma Animal Study* were printed and more than 1,200 were mailed to stakeholders, libraries, and nonprofit organizations across Oklahoma and the United States. The study was also delivered to members of the Oklahoma state legislature.

Nationally, Louisa McCune,

Kirkpatrick Foundation executive director, and Shank shared the report findings at the Animal Grantmakers conference in Denver and National Link Coalition and National Sheriffs Association conferences in Minneapolis. In Oklahoma, the study was presented at a book signing and to civic organizations including area Rotary and Lions Clubs. A digital copy of the study is currently available on the foundation’s website and free hard copies are available by request.

The primary goal of the animal study was to better understand the

world of Oklahoma animal wellbeing. The work done for *The Oklahoma Animal Study* forged relationships between the foundation and experts across all fields of animal wellbeing, locally and nationally. Moreover, the study allowed the foundation to establish a baseline of the conditions of animals, and to begin to understand what we do not know about those conditions and what we must learn to better serve Oklahoma animals.

As animal advocate Jane Goodall says, “Only if we understand, can we care. Only if we care, will we help.”

THE OKLAHOMA ANIMAL STUDY *continued*



Review of Recommendations

When *The Oklahoma Animal Study* was published in early 2016, the foundation prescribed recommendations for Oklahoma animals. The top twelve of these recommendations are outlined to the right. These took into account legal standards and expert opinions on ways to improve the quality of lives for Oklahoma animals. In reviewing the changes in the state and current standards for animal wellbeing, do these recommendations hold validity in 2020? Have we progressed toward the proposed improvements?

The short answer to the first question is yes. When first developed, the recommendations became an idealistic checklist of prospective accomplishments on the journey toward 2032. The recommendations were many and thorough because the foundation was, in many ways, pioneering a path. It was essential to define as many possible improvements for Oklahoma animals to establish a field on which to work, and to identify obstacles facing the animal groups. Moreover, the improvements emphasize the prevention of pain and neglect for Oklahoma ani-

mals, the goal of Safe & Humane.

When comparing the recommendations to current standards, the foundation stands behind the validity of the assessment. While the recommendations are an ideal set of standards, they serve more as a roadmap than a checklist. Possibly the greatest impact of the recommendations, and the study that led to those conclusions, is how they shed light on pressing issues of animal wellbeing.

In reviewing, it must be noted that as a private family foundation, Kirkpatrick Foundation cannot lobby for the legislative changes as outlined in some of the recommendations. However, the foundation can support organizations whose work improves animal treatment and accomplishes the recommendations.

Regarding the second question, several of the points have been realized. For example, though euthanasia gas chambers are still legally allowed in the state, the work of several groups, including HSUS, has made the use of the gas chambers nonexistent in Oklahoma. Members of Common Bonds

have set group goals of increasing spay/neuter and shelter resources (listed in recommendation number two), while Oklahoma euthanasia rates have notably declined in the past decade. The SQ777 nonpartisan work of Kirkpatrick Foundation in 2016 was instrumental in educating the public about Concentrated Animal Farming Operations. And currently Oklahoma has eighteen domestic violence shelters that provide housing for pet owners.

One case, the disbandment of the University of Oklahoma baboon breeding program in 2015, highlights potential problems that come with any change. Recent reports showed that though the baboons will no longer be bred in Oklahoma, many of the baboons were sold to MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, for use in experiments. This specific instance shows the complexity of the issue, the interconnection of animal wellbeing in the region, and the unforeseen consequences of pushing for change in the state.

TOP 12 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM *The Oklahoma Animal Study* (2016)*

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update and enforce Oklahoma animal statutes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeal the pound-seizure law. • Prohibit the use of gas chambers in animal shelters. • Remove the under-10,000 population exemption for cities that govern methods of euthanasia and 200,000-population requirement for counties to establish animal shelter programs. • Increase the spay/neuter \$10 deposit for releasing agencies. • Require licensing and inspection of municipal and county animal shelters. • Restore statewide ban on horse slaughter. • Enact a prohibition on the private ownership of dangerous wild animals. • Craft future state legislation on Animal Legal Defense Fund model states: Illinois, Oregon, Maine, California, and Michigan. 2. Require and facilitate licensing and inspection of all animal shelters and en- | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Discourage the expansion of CAFOs. Educate the public about CAFO effects on human, animal, and environmental health. 4. Encourage and support sustainable and humane agricultural practices and the use of local food distribution cooperatives and humane labeling systems. 5. Advocate for the use of pain alleviation in farm-animal procedures such as castration, branding, and dehorning. 6. Require horse-racing industry groups to adhere to current rules and laws governing international standards of care. 7. Study the prevalence of and prohibit dangerous wild animals in private homes, auctions, and unaccredited breeding facilities. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Encourage the statewide development of domestic-violence and homeless shelters that house pets. 9. Support humane education by placing animals in schools, shelters, and similar organizations to teach emotional learning. 10. Further develop and create a statewide emergency animal-response plan; train animal-response teams at the local and state level to effectively and humanely respond to natural disasters, including tornadoes, fires, and floods. 11. Educate the public about humane and non-lethal forms of wildlife conflict resolution by raising awareness and facilitating access to services. 12. Study and educate Oklahomans about canned-hunt facilities and inhumane forms of hunting. |
|---|--|--|

* Abbreviated for space; see kirkpatrickfoundation.com for the full report and list of recommendations.



RESEARCH: ATTITUDES SURVEY

Just as *The Oklahoma Animal Study* established the baseline of living conditions for Oklahoma animals, Kirkpatrick Foundation concluded that a baseline of attitudes among the citizens of Oklahoma regarding animals was needed to measure progress toward the 2032 goal. In October 2017, the foundation commissioned Lake Research Partners, a national research firm lead by Dr. Bob Meadow, to survey Oklahomans and determine public opinion on animal issues, from animal cruelty laws to pet ownership.

Lake Research Partners contacted 700 Oklahomans (500 by telephone and 200 online) for the survey. The collected data were weighted by gender, age, race, party identification, education, region, and marital status to match known characteristics of the adult Oklahoma population.

As a whole, the 2017 data showed Oklahomans were strongly supportive of several measures that promote animal wellbeing.

Specific survey findings include:

1. Oklahomans believe animals should be treated with respect and decency: 93 percent of respondents believe children should be educated to respect animals.
2. Most Oklahomans do not believe that animals are simply property: 58 percent think the right to hunt is not more important than any right animals possess.
3. Ninety percent of Oklahomans think that treating animals humanely should not be limited to those kept as pets, believing animals raised for food deserve to be free from abuse and cruelty.
4. Of respondents, 79 percent responded that companion animals are treated well but believed more should be done to promote the wellbeing of these animals.
5. Oklahomans are very supportive of pro-animal welfare policies, including increasing spay/neuter clinics in the state (88 percent) and requiring spay/neuter of pets before adoption (83 percent), requiring that farm animals be given enough space to turn around (91 percent), and banning ownership of dangerous exotic animals (65 percent).
6. Of dog owners, 34 percent responded their pet was given to them as a gift and 44 percent of cat owners responded their pet came to them as a stray.
7. Where do dogs sleep? It's a range: 34 percent of owners say their dogs sleep on the bed, 25 percent on the bedroom floor, and 7 percent roam free outside.
8. Pet ownership is widespread among Oklahomans. Seventy-three percent of adults in Oklahoma have a pet.

REFLECTION OF A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE



Oklahomans think that good schools, respect for neighbors, and a strong economy are all very important reflections of a good place to live. While not the highest ranking item, strong laws to protect animals from cruelty are more important than community amenities such as parks, restaurants, cultural institutions, and entertainment.

Rate 1 to 10 (10 being the most important indicator)



Source: Lake Research Partners Survey 2017 for Kirkpatrick Foundation.

A CRITICAL GAP

The *Oklahoma Animal Study* and Lake Research Partners reveal an important gap between perception and reality.

The work of Safe & Humane uncovered a critical gap worth considering. Kirkpatrick Foundation commissioned a survey of Oklahoma residents, querying their perceptions about animal welfare in our state. The survey, conducted by Lake Research Partners, revealed Oklahomans carried a largely optimistic impression of animal wellbeing here—and a strong preference for humane treatment of animals.

In contrast, *The Oklahoma Animal Study* documented widespread animal welfare concerns in almost every category.

This confusing duality also exists at the core of American life. Law and culture simultaneously categorize animals as living beings but also human property. This classification endows humans with the power to own and use animals in most any way they see fit. Yet, at the same time, many in our culture feel a moral sense of duty to protect and care for our animal kin.

The Safe & Humane initiative recognizes this cognitive disconnect as an opportunity to raise awareness, a first step in making Oklahoma safer and more humane by 2032. Let's take a closer look.



GETTY IMAGES



TIM FLACH



EDWIN REMSBERG/GETTY IMAGES



COMPANION ANIMALS

PERCEPTION: *The Lake Research survey found 28 percent of Oklahomans believe animals are treated better in Oklahoma than other states; 43 percent say that treatment of animals in Oklahoma is equal to other states.*

REALITY: *The Oklahoma Animal Study found that, as of January 2014, Oklahoma was the third-largest commercial breeding state in the nation. "While not all USDA-licensed commercial breeders are puppy mills, our past investigations and research have shown that the majority would fall into the puppy mill category, due to typically having large numbers of dogs that live their entire lives in small cages with very little quality of life," said Kathleen Summers, director of outreach and research for the Stop Puppy Mills Campaign by the Humane Society of the United States.*

Recently reported incidents have shown it has been difficult to enforce the Commercial Pet Breeders Act in the state.

Furthermore, approximately one-third of the 136 municipal shelters and animal-control agencies in Oklahoma have no point of contact, no hours of operation listed publicly, and often no record-keeping. Many shelter employees or volunteers say that the shelters simply do not have the personnel to manage a software system or the financial resources to purchase a record-keeping system.

Some shelters are only made of stacked pet carriers or makeshift sheds and in the shelters with little funding animals are often underfed, lack fresh water, or have little to no monitoring on weekends.

LIVESTOCK

PERCEPTION: *The Lake Research survey found Oklahomans are strongly supportive of pro-animal welfare policies including requiring that farm animals be given enough space to turn around.*

REALITY: *The Oklahoma Animal Study reported common usage of gestation crates, individual metal stalls that house breeding sows during pregnancy. They are typically seven feet long and two feet wide with enough room for a sow to stand or lie down, but not enough to turn around.*

The Humane Society of the United States says that intensive confinement of the sows reduces muscle weight and decreases bone strength, resulting in increased risk of injury and lesions from bars and bare flooring. The confinement in crates has also been reported to cause severe psychological problems in the sows as exhibited when the animals bite bars and are unresponsive to the squeals of their piglets or other sows.

Increased scrutiny has led to the legislative banning of gestation crates in the European Union and Canada. Nine states in the United States have also banned the practice.

Chicken layer caging systems (that confine six to ten birds to one small cage around the clock) have been criticized as inhumane due to the severe restriction on the hens' movements and ability to perform natural behaviors such as nesting, dust bathing, perching, and foraging. Problems commonly associated with the cages include overcrowding, aggression, bone weakness, and foot damage.

SPAY & NEUTER

PERCEPTION: *The Lake Research survey found Oklahomans strongly support pro-animal welfare policies, including increasing spay/neuter clinics and requiring the procedures before adoption.*

REALITY: *The Oklahoma Animal Study shared the research of SpayFIRST! Executive Director Ruth Steinberger: "Spending over a day's earnings to spay the pet, driving hours to get to a spay/neuter program, or waiting weeks to see an intermittent program places responsible pet care out of reach for low-income homes in Oklahoma."*

Steinberger's research showed that the areas of the state that lack access to spay/neutering resources are composed of large groups of individuals and families living below or close to the poverty line. As other research has shown, low annual family income is one of the strongest predictors a pet will not be spayed or neutered.

GET 'EM FIXED

Oklahoma offers many low-income and free spay/neuter resources:

- Pet Overpopulation Fund
- Animal Birth Control Project
- Animal Resource Center
- Best Friends of Pets
- Oklahoma Spay Network
- Pets for Life and more than thirty other assistance programs



A LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

“People acting together as a group can accomplish things which no individual acting alone could ever hope to bring about.”

—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



Common Bonds Oklahoma. Pets. People. Places.

Best Friends Animal Society estimates that around 733,000 dogs and cats are killed annually in America’s shelters. Based on this data set, Oklahoma shelters euthanized an average of thirty-four dogs and cats each day, a total of about 12,700 animals, in 2018.

To decrease needless euthanasia throughout the country, the national organizations of Best Friends Animal Society and Target Zero have set a goal that by the year 2025 all US shelters will have a 90 percent live release rate, which means that nine out of ten adoptable animals leave the shelter alive. Inspired by this national goal and determined to solve Oklahoma’s problem of high cat

and dog euthanasia numbers, eighty-nine Oklahoma shelter managers and volunteers, animal control officers, and leaders in the animal wellbeing community gathered at the Oklahoma History Center convened by Kirkpatrick Foundation on April 30, 2018, to pound out solutions.

Kirkpatrick Foundation and key stakeholders in the initial leadership group decided that reaching the 2025 goal would require using a Collective Impact model. Introduced as a framework by John Kania and Mark Kramer in a 2011 *Stanford Social Innovation Review* article, Collective Impact is “a systemic approach to social impact that focuses on the relationships between organizations and the progress toward shared objectives.” A strength of Collective Impact is that the model employs open communication

between organizations and focuses the direction of initiative through strategic goal setting and data analysis.

On April 30, 2018, meeting attendees heard from Oklahoma animal shelter leaders who shared local success in lowering euthanasia rates, after which Matt Biggar, a Collective Impact strategy consultant based in San Francisco, presented on the Collective Impact model. At the end of the day-long conversation, Louisa McCune, Kirkpatrick Foundation executive director, asked the group: “Is this a path we can, as a group, agree to pursue?” Across the board, the participants voiced approval to the question. With that general consensus, the Common Bonds (original working title: Save Lives—Unite Oklahoma) campaign to reach a 90 percent shelter live release rate began for Oklahoma.

The Beginning: Participating Organizations at the Initial April 2018 Meeting

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 3 Girls Animal Rescue | City of Oklahoma City Animal Welfare | Humane Society of the US, Oklahoma Chapter | Pittsburg County Animal Shelter |
| 9 Lives Rescue Oklahoma | City of Tulsa Animal Welfare | Kirkpatrick Foundation | Ponca City Humane Society |
| Altus Animal Shelter | Civic Collaboration Consultants | Lakes Area Pet Society | Sand Springs Animal Welfare |
| Amore Pit Bull Rescue | Cross Sector Innovations | Mannford Municipal Shelter | Sapulpa Furry Friends |
| Animal Rescue Center of Shawnee | Enid Animal Control | Mustang Animal Control | Second Chance Pet Rescue |
| Bella Foundation SPCA | Enid SPCA | Mutt Misfits | Single Dog Seeking |
| Best Friends Animal Society | Forgotten Treasures, Shawnee | Oklahoma Alliance for Animals | SpayFIRST! |
| Best Friends of Pets | Foster Liaison/Australian Shepherds Forever | Oklahoma Animal Crisis Team | Stephens County Humane Society |
| CAARE, Inc. | Free to Live Animal Sanctuary | Peaceful Animal Adoption Shelter | Stillwater Animal Welfare |
| Central Oklahoma Humane Society | Friends of the Shelter Foundation | Pauls Valley Animal Shelter | Target Zero |
| Chickasha Animal Control & Shelter | Hands Helping Paws | Perkins Animal Shelter | Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue |
| City of Noble Animal Shelter | Humane Society of the Ozarks | Pet Adoption & Welfare Services of Oklahoma | Ward-Weiseman Animal Haven |
| City of Norman Animal Welfare | | | Washington County SPCA |

THE OKLAHOMA PROBLEM



Steering Committee

Mark Bechtel
 Dr. Kim Carter, DVM
 Jeff Cook
 Jonathan Gary
 Vicki Grantz
 Dana McCrory
 Louisa McCune
 Kim Schlittler
 Dr. Lesa Staubus, DVM
 Brent Toellner

Advisory Council

Nickii Allen
 Cynthia Armstrong
 Amanda Clinton
 Shane Hampton
 Amy Johnson
 Dr. Carlos Risco, DVM
 Kay Stout
 Jamee Suarez
 Robin Suarez

Working Groups

SPAY/NEUTER
 Kim Schlittler - co-chair
 Lesa Staubus, DVM - co-chair
 Dr. Jake Boyer, DVM
 Dr. Kim Carter, DVM
 Amanda Meeks
 Katrina Meinkoth
 Cati Stanila
 Ruth Steinberger
 Dr. Amy Tyler, DVM

SHELTER BEST PRACTICES
 Jonathan Gary - co-chair
 Mark Bechtel - co-chair
 Juarita Becker
 Catherine Eldridge
 Jean Letcher
 Dr. Amy Tyler, DVM

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
 Matt Goodwin - co-chair
 Vicki Grantz - co-chair
 Cynthia Armstrong
 Jeff Cook
 Shane Hampton
 Kay Stout
 Kristy Wicker

*Best Friends Animal Society data



A LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE *continued*



PRISCILLA FOREHAND

Understanding The Problem

In the months following the initial meeting, the Common Bonds leadership group determined a common agenda and strategic plan for the 2025 goal. Consultant Matt Biggar gathered information through one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders and led a two-day intensive retreat of the leadership group members in November 2018 to develop the initiative’s collaborative approach.

In the initial planning phase of Common Bonds, the Oklahoma leadership group focused on understanding the root causes of euthanasia in order to increase live release rates in state shelters (as depicted in the figure to the left). Members of Common Bonds collaborated to find ways to provide resources statewide for animal welfare, engage communities across Oklahoma, make spay and neutering services affordable and available, elevate responsible pet ownership, and advocate for legal policy as needed to reach its goal.

The Common Bonds strategic plan

was finalized in early 2019, laying the foundation for the seven-year initiative and providing a detailed road map for the first two years, including an administrative structure of working groups and an executive committee. The leadership group met again on May 7, 2019, at the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences in Stillwater, Oklahoma, to discuss progress in the campaign and develop future plans.

In August 2019, Kelly Burley, former director of KOSU Public Radio, became the director of Common Bonds, which marked a new phase of the campaign. As outlined in the strategic plan, Burley “connects, supports, and convenes stakeholders” by implementing marketing strategies, setting up cross-member communication channels, and reporting to the members on progress.

In September 2019, the original title for the project of Save Lives–Unite

Oklahoma was rebranded as Common Bonds: Oklahoma Pets, People, and Places. The new name emphasizes both the need for unification of people across the state to reach the 2025 goal, and the importance of the human-animal bond in the creation of quality Oklahoma communities. A new logo, as seen on page 41, was designed by UCO student Adam Coe.

Like other projects of the Safe & Humane initiative, Common Bonds developed under the guidance of Kirkpatrick Foundation staff, but it has since been welcomed and transformed by leaders and organizations in the Oklahoma animal wellbeing community. Following the Collective Impact model, Common Bonds has flourished, and already seen success in the state, because individuals and organizations are sharing experiences and strengths to create positive change for companion animals in their communities.

Common Bonds Leadership Organizations (2020)

- American Humane
- Bella SPCA
- Best Friends Animal Society
- Best Friends of Pets
- City of Norman Animal Welfare
- City of Oklahoma City Animal Welfare
- City of Tulsa Animal Welfare
- Cherokee Nation Businesses
- Connected to Place
- Enid SPCA
- Humane Society of the United States, Oklahoma Chapter
- Kirkpatrick Foundation
- Lab Rescue OK
- Oklahoma Alliance for Animals
- Oklahoma Humane Society
- Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
- Peaceful Animal Adoption Shelter
- SpayFirst!
- SpayXperts
- St. Francis Animal Resource Center
- University of Oklahoma, Institute for Quality Communities
- University of Central Oklahoma
- Well-Being International





STATE QUESTION 777

“You cannot be afraid to speak up and speak out for what you believe. You have to have courage, raw courage.”

—JOHN LEWIS | Twitter, July 16, 2014

STATE QUESTION 777
Right to Farm?
 or
Right to Harm?
 KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE

Industry GDP
 Water Usage

Does Industrial Agriculture Keep Food Prices Low?

Do Pro-Animal Regulations Lead to Higher Food Prices?

National Consumer Egg Price Since 1980

CALIFORNIA EGGS

Item	2015 Price	2014 Price
BACON	\$1.70	\$1.44
BORLAI PORK CHOP	\$1.10	\$1.14
BORLAI HAM	\$1.07	\$1.22
WHOLE CHICKEN	\$1.70	\$1.40
CHICKEN LEGS	\$1.07	\$1.14
EGG	\$4.14	\$4.14

Oklahoma State Question 777 appeared on the Oklahoma state ballot on November 8, 2016. Referred to by supporters of the proposed amendment as “Right to Farm” and by opponents as “Right to Harm,” the question drew a contentious debate statewide. Mindful of its commitment to supporting animal wellbeing and environmental conservation in Oklahoma, Kirkpatrick Foundation provided nonpartisan analysis to the public throughout 2016 to raise awareness of potential aftereffects to family farms, drinking water, the food system, and Oklahoma communities if SQ 777 passed.

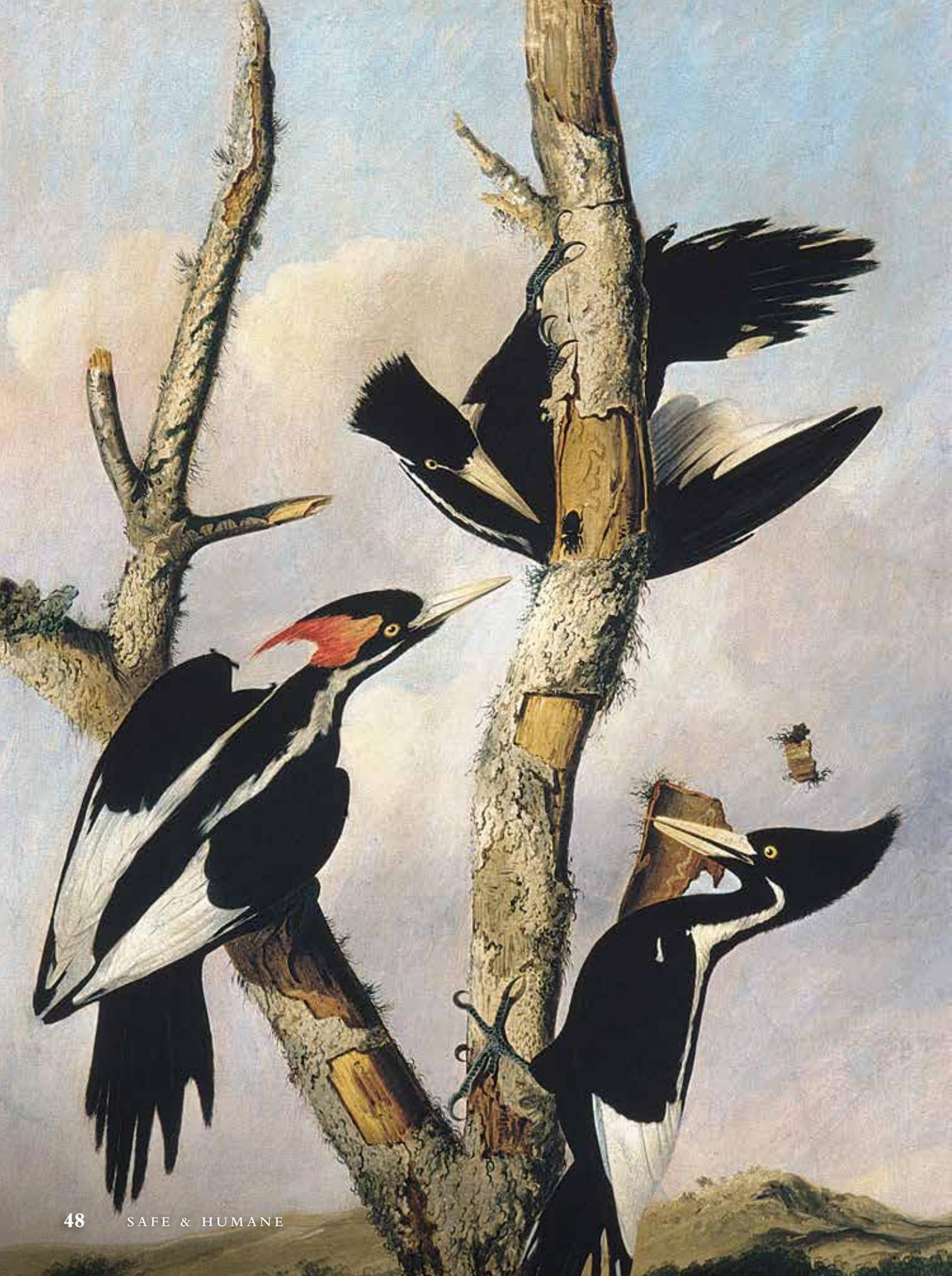
As proposed, SQ 777 would have prohibited the Oklahoma legislature from passing laws that would remove the right to employ agricultural technology and livestock production without a compelling state interest. Essentially, the amendment would make any law restricting the state’s farming industry more vulnerable to lawsuits and, consequently, the state legislature could pass fewer regulations over the farm industry. Before SQ 777 was added to the Oklahoma election ballot, Right to Farm legislation passed in North Dakota in 2012 and Missouri in 2014.

The foundation used large group discussions and fact sheets, outlining topics from agricultural water use to the economic impact of pro-animal regulations, to provide information to the public. Brian Ted Jones, the foundation’s director of education in 2016, also traveled to twenty-five counties giving more than seventy presentations on legal and economic information for and against SQ 777. The foundation also produced and screened a short film, *Oklahoma Agriculture: Past, Present, and Future*,

in February 2016. The film profiled the historic tradition of the Oklahoma family farms and featured Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society; Dr. Bailey Norwood, professor of Agriculture Economics at Oklahoma State University; and Will Osborn of Osborn Farms in Tuttle, Oklahoma.

Statewide coalitions formed the opposing Vote Yes and Vote No campaigns. The Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Pork Council, and Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association led the Vote Yes position. On the Vote No side: the Oklahoma Stewardship Council; Oklahomans for Food, Farm, and Family; Save the Illinois River; Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy; and the Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma.

In November 2016, Oklahoma citizens voted down SQ 777 with 60 percent of the vote. The educational fact sheets created for issues related to Right to Farm effects are currently available on Kirkpatrick Foundation’s website as resources for citizens in other states that have similar corporate farming legislation proposed.



MAGAZINE PUBLISHING

“In order to drive social reform, you must work through multiple channels—public policy, the courts, corporate reforms, and creative works to influence culture, grassroots organizing, and more. That’s the biggest lesson I’ve learned about how change occurs.”

—WAYNE PACELLE | *The Calling*
ArtDesk ISSUE 08 SPRING 2017



ArtDesk is a quarterly magazine published by the Kirkpatrick Foundation and devoted to contemporary art, performance, and thought. Since its launch in 2013, nearly every issue of the magazine has featured content about animals. Whether an essay on the emotional lives of fish by Jonathan Balcombe or five pages of modern and contemporary artists with their animal companions, this series continues to bring the foundation’s concern about animals in Oklahoma and beyond to a broader audience.

ISSUE 01 | FALL 2013/WINTER 2014

RESCUE ME: The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation rescues dogs who, in turn, rescue humans from disaster sites.

ISSUE 02 | SPRING /SUMMER 2014

WILD CAT: The Borderlands Research Institute of Sul Ross State University operates an effort to examine the relationship between the mountain lion and its prey in the regional ecosystem.

ISSUE 03 | FALL/WINTER 2014

PET PALACE: The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region in Colorado Springs is a haven and way station for homeless animals.

THE ART & CULTURE OF CAPTIVITY: There are few better places to increase animal-awareness than at a well-run zoo where young visitors and education programs are plentiful.

ISSUE 04 | SUMMER 2015

THE ARK: At JFK Airport in New York, animals who lay over have access to sleeping quarters, showers, and even gourmet meals.

ISSUE 05 | FALL/WINTER 2015

FISH MINDS: Fish cognition is a flourishing area of inquiry. Fishes use tools, recognize each other as individuals, and have “shoal mates.”

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT | 2016

RIGHT TO HARM?: A law professor explains why SQ 777 is not a fit for Oklahoma’s quirky state constitution.

ISSUE 07 | WINTER 2016

#LENDANEAR: University of Central Oklahoma College of Fine Arts and Design students and local professional designers collaborate to bring light to the slaughter of African elephants.

ISSUE 08 | SPRING 2017

THE CALLING: In conversation with Wayne Pacelle, the world’s leader in the global movement to protect animals.

ISSUE 09 | SUMMER 2017

TIGERNADO: Oklahoma is considered among the worst for exotic animal oversight. Because of this, breeders and owners are moving to Oklahoma to accommodate their market and desires.

ISSUE 10 | FALL 2017

COMING UP ROSIE: An excerpt from *Afterglow (A Dog Memoir)*, the new book by Eileen Myles, an experimental writer in Marfa and New York City.

ISSUE 12 | SPRING 2018

SERENE ACRES: Beekeeping, land conservation, and livestock at the historic Mollie Spencer Farm in Yukon, Oklahoma.

ISSUE 14 | FALL 2018

FANTASTIC BEASTS: A collection of remarkable photographs depicting fourteen muse-like relationships between artist and animal.

ISSUE 16 | SPRING 2019

THE MODERN CHICKEN: Poultry consumption in the US has grown dramatically, negatively impacting the animals, the environment, drinking water, and family farm.

OUTDOOR SIGNAGE

“Cats are connoisseurs of comfort.”
—JAMES HERRIOT



PRISCILLA FOREHAND



Beautiful Oklahoma cats became transportation stars in 2019 with a philanthropic partnership between Kirkpatrick Foundation, Tyler Media, and Lap of Luxury Lifestyle Pet Photography. To raise awareness about cat adoption, Oklahoma City benches and bus shelters feature striking, close-up images of cats in order to not-so-subtly entice local residents to do just that—adopt a cat.

Conceived by Kirkpatrick Foundation executive director Louisa McCune, who, while attending a conference and hearing about how cats are faring much worse than dogs when it comes to adoption rates, immediately thought about ways to improve the public relations for cats. After securing an agreement with Tony Tyler of Tyler Media, local pet

photographer Priscilla Forehand of Lap of Luxury signed on to the project. Steven Walker of Walker Creative designed the benches. Four different images are placed on forty-two different benches and bus shelters around Oklahoma City, Edmond, and Norman.

“As a cat ambassador and cat advocate, I was absolutely thrilled when

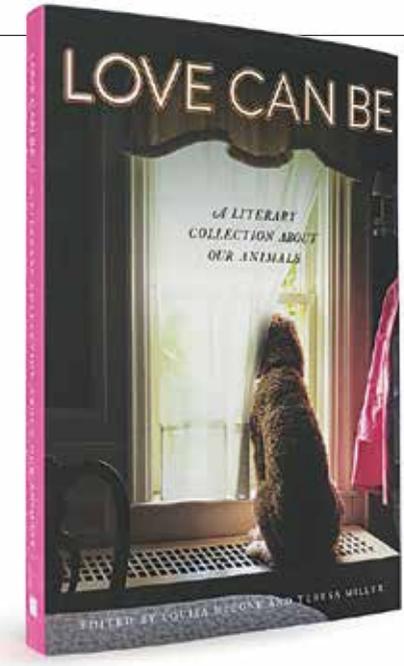
I was asked to be involved with this project,” says photographer Priscilla Forehand. “With my commitment to the well-being of cats, and having so many friends affiliated with cat rescue, I’m constantly hearing about the needs for fosters and, more importantly—adopters. I’ve met many cats who reside in retail establishments; so homes

aren’t the only places to house all of the cats—they make great greeters, too!”

With a population of 1.3 million, steadily increasing tourism, and a transformational new animal shelter on the horizon, Oklahoma City is a prime location to make this powerful statement with striking images and a key word to get the point across.



LITERARY



“Love can be, and sure enough is, moving in all things, in all places, in all forms of life at the same snap of your finger.”
—WOODY GUTHRIE

With a title inspired by Oklahoma’s Woody Guthrie, *Love Can Be: A Literary Collection About Our Animals* (Kirkpatrick Foundation, 2018) is an anthology of poems and prose about what love can truly be and the relationship of humans and animals, pets and pet owners, and how all species in the natural world interconnect. This work, coedited by Teresa Miller and Louisa McCune, includes pieces from thirty acclaimed authors from Oklahoma and across the United States.

Authors featured in the collection are Julia Alvarez, Blake Bailey, Rick Bass, P. C. Cast, Wayne Coyne, Kim Doner, Delia Ephron, Reyna Grande, Joy Harjo, Amy Hempel, Juan Felipe Herrera, S. E. Hinton, Brandon Hobson, Dean Koontz, Ursula K. Le Guin, Jill McCorkle, Teresa Miller, N. Scott Momaday, Joyce Carol Oates, Susan Orlean, Ron Padgett, Elise Paschen, Diane Rehm, Jewell Parker Rhodes, Wade Rouse, Alexander McCall Smith, Lalita Tademy, Clifton Taulbert, Michael Wallis, and Mary Logan Wolf.

Love Can Be speaks to the broad reach of the Safe & Humane initiative and also to the animal and human bond. The author of *One Small Sacrifice*, Hilary Davidson summarized, “*Love Can Be* chronicles our relationships with animals and tells us a lot about humans in the process.” The individual stories of the work outline the beauty where literature and animals meet and, in turn, show how animals often bring the humanity out in humans.

Presentations and book signings included the Oklahoma Book Festival in Oklahoma City; a panel at Magic City Books of Tulsa that featured Michael Wallis, S. E. Hinton, Louisa McCune, Teresa Miller, Brandon Hobson, Clifton Taulbert, P. C. Cast, Kim Doner, and Mary Logan Wolf; a signing at Putnam City 6 in Enid, and a presentation at Best of Books in Edmond. *Love Can Be* also won the Best Design award at the 2019 Oklahoma Book Awards.

Kirkpatrick Foundation donates all proceeds of sales of the volume to animal charities in Oklahoma as well as honoraria donated to the contributors’ selected animal charities. Oklahoma charities benefiting from book sales are Bella SPCA, Joan Kirkpatrick Animal Hospital, Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Enid Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Wildlife In Need Group-In Tulsa (WING-IT), and WildCare Foundation. The book is available for purchase at bookstores and Amazon.

LOVE CAN BE EXCERPTS

He steps aside for her, so she can eat.
 Then we watch him fill his beak
 Walk tenderly to her and kiss her with seed.
 The sacred world lifts up its head
 To notice—
 We are double, triple blessed.

—U.S. POET LAUREATE JOY HARJO, *Redbird Love*

So we began to do what we called “Frog Patrol,” a nightly frog “search and rescue” kind of mission. We would go out and look for as many frogs as we could find that needed help getting out of the street. We would take a flashlight . . . and just swoop up every frog we saw in the street and put it in the yard, sometimes in a panic—running ahead of cars as they drove down the street and trying to get the frogs out of the path of the tires.

—WAYNE COYNE, *Frog Patrol and Turtle Dashing*

This became a morning routine.
She’d take a stick in her mouth and knock or drag it against our window (nobody believes that part), then run around the house until hunger got the best of her. The weird part was this: After bolting her cat food, and accepting a little heartfelt petting and cooing, she’d go right back to her crappy dog run chez Butch. She liked him, whether he bothered to feed her or not.

—BLAKE BAILEY, *Pretty Girl*

Confident that my logic was unassailable, I said, “The dog was here in the hall when the damage occurred. The Kong toy was here. The Kong belongs to the dog. The dog wanted to play. If the dog wasn’t so cute, I wouldn’t have wanted to play with her. Hall, dog, Kong, cute, play—the damage to the painting was inevitable.”

“So you’re saying the dog is responsible because she’s cute.”

—DEAN KOONTZ, *A Spooky Moment Around Which the Entire Story Revolves*

R E V I E W S

(A) wonderful book, so varied and rich with emotion. Love can be anything: tender, raucous, bittersweet, joyful, transcendent or ridiculous—but it’s always better when shared with animals!

—DIANA GABALDON, *The Outlander Series*

It’s an anthology for our time—inclusive, sympathetic, and joyful. The contributors represent the broad, beautiful, and rich diversity of our nation . . .

—KITTY BLOCK
 CEO, Humane Society of the United States

A touching tribute to the creatures we let into our hearts and homes . . . a heartwarming, hopeful anthology.

—BOOKPAGE

Love Can Be is a collection that belongs on every animal lover’s bookshelf. . . . Some pieces are moving, even funny, tributes to the animals who share the writers’ homes. There are also poignant examinations of how animals shape our world, how by trying to understand animals we can better understand ourselves.

—STEPHEN WELLS
 Executive Director, Animal Legal Defense Fund

Open-hearted, earnest and wise, it explores the vast, complex terrain between humans and other animals, and illuminates the transforming effect animals have on us.

—MICHAEL MASON

Head Cases: Stories of Brain Injury and Its Aftermath

A bonanza of biophilia! (T)he writers of this diverse collection mine their lives and hearts to help us understand the non-people of our planet—and why they mean the world to us.

—GORDON GRICE
 Cabinet of Curiosities and The Red Hourglass

J U B I L A T E :
 An Homage in Catterel Verse

*For she is of the tribe of Tyger
 and eyes burning bright
 though cuddling
 at night
 until you wake to discover—
 where is she? Cher-ie?*

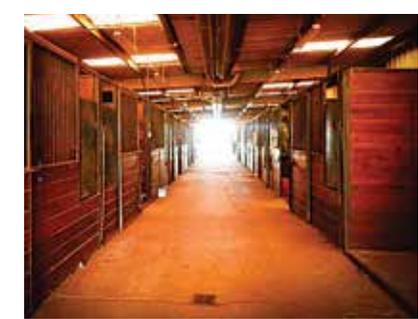
Don’t inquire.

—Joyce Carol Oates



A NEW EQUINE CENTER

“A man that don’t love a horse, there is something the matter with him. If he has no sympathy for the man that does love horses, then there is something worse the matter with him.”
—WILL ROGERS | *New York Times*, August 17, 1924



Blaze’s Tribute Equine Rescue, founded in 2001 by Natalee Cross, has a mission to improve the lives of neglected, starved, and abused horses in Oklahoma. The nonprofit’s work includes horse rehabilitation, education, and adoption services and promotes and teaches humane, natural methods for horse training. Blaze’s serves an average of more than 120 horses each year through its adoption and training program and maintains care for 100 horses at any given time.

Along with taking in horses from owners who are no longer able to care for the animal, the rescue’s primary focus is aiding law enforcement by housing horses from animal cruelty cases. Blaze’s currently partners with Oklahoma

City Animal Welfare Division, the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office, and other county and local divisions in this manner. The rescue is the largest in the state, having rescued 1,514 horses since 2001 and finding adopters for 1,260 of them.

In January 2019, Kirkpatrick Foundation granted \$749,999 to Blaze’s, enabling the organization to purchase a sixty-two acre, fully equipped equine facility in Harrah, Oklahoma. The non-profit’s original facility, with a four-stall barn on twenty acres near Jones, Oklahoma, was too small to meet demand and Blaze’s was forced to turn away owner-surrenders prior to the grant.

Natalee Cross says about her work, “My passion is for the animals and I feel like they don’t have a voice. We’re a throw-away society and there are so many of these animals that deserve a second chance. If we don’t do it, who will?”



PARTNER PROGRESS



As Kirkpatrick Foundation progresses forward to the 2032 goal, other organizations, agencies, and nonprofits are working in their own lanes to improve the lives of animals in the state. The following are only a few examples of the excellent work of Oklahoma organizations in the past few years.

Domestic Violence Shelter Animal Kennels

In 2015, Domestic Violence Intervention Services in Tulsa became the first domestic violence shelter in Oklahoma to provide housing for pets of domestic violence victims. As of 2019, Oklahoma has six domestic violence shelters with animal sheltering facilities and twelve shelters with fostering for pets on a case-by-case basis.

Norman Animal Welfare Center

In 2016, the Norman Animal Welfare Center opened the doors of a new, \$3 million shelter with housing for more dogs and cats, modernized kennels, isolation rooms, veterinary clinic, and indoor and outdoor play spaces.

Protected Ecosystems

The Nature Conservancy acquired 3,100 acres of native prairie along the Blue River at Oka' Yanahli Preserve in Johnston County in summer 2016. The organization plans to reintroduce bison, once an integral part of the prairie ecosystem, back to the preserve.

Gas Chamber Euthanasia

In September 2016, Shawnee City Commissioners passed a resolution authorizing the disposal of the two carbon monoxide euthanasia systems (gas chambers) used at the animal shelter. By the end of 2016, after years of public protests, the city transitioned to lethal injections. This effectively ended the use of gas chamber euthanasia in Oklahoma shelters, according to Cynthia Armstrong, Oklahoma state director for the Humane Society of the United States.

Palomar

In 2017, Palomar, Oklahoma City's Family Justice Center, opened, bringing together service-oriented agencies under one roof to offer coordinated services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, bullying, and human trafficking. In 2018, through funding by the Arnall Family Foundation, Palomar and the Oklahoma Humane Society established a partnership in which an animal advocate is on-site at Palomar

to take immediate care of animals while the Palomar agencies take care of families. The Animal Advocacy Program is the first of its kind for any family justice center nationally.

Black-Capped Vireo

Through habitat conservation efforts by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Oklahoma and Texas, the US Army, private landowners, and nongovernmental organizations, the Black-Capped Vireo was removed from the endangered species list in 2017. First listed in 1987, the population of this small bird, which resides in west-central Oklahoma, increased from 350 birds in the wild to more than 14,000.

Live Release Rates

Live-release rates in municipal animal shelters have improved in major Oklahoma cities over the past decade. The City of Oklahoma City Animal Welfare Division's live release rate improved from 57 percent in 2012 to 86 percent in 2018. The Tulsa shelter live-release rate was 65 percent in 2018. In late 2018, a partnership between Tulsa Animal Welfare, the Humane Society of Tulsa, and the Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals created Coalition for Tulsa Pets, an organization dedicated to reaching a release rate of 90 percent for Tulsa.



PARTNER PROGRESS *continued*

“Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.”
—FRANK ZAPPA



Law Enforcement Training
In 2016, 2017, and 2018 HSUS held forty-one training events for law enforcement and animal welfare agency personnel as part of the Humane State Program. These continuing education sessions—held in Tulsa, Ardmore, McAlester, Lawton, Woodward, Ada, and Oklahoma City—covered the investigation of animal cruelty and animal fighting and shelter and rescue concerns. Topics also included compassion fatigue, working with law enforcement, disaster planning, wildlife conflicts, and dangerous exotic animals kept in private possession. Of the 3,050 attendees, these trainings included 1,165 law enforcement personnel.

Dangerous Dog Committee
A multidisciplinary working group comprised of city officials from the Oklahoma City Police Department, Animal Welfare Division, 911 Communications, and Action Center along with representatives from the Kirkpatrick Foundation and HSUS met in 2018 and 2019 to develop recommendations to city leadership regarding dangerous dog attacks. Recommendations included increased staffing within the Animal Control Division, provisioning of training and informational materials for all

city employees on dangerous dog ordinances, a comprehensive public education campaign, engagement of the Neighborhood Alliance to disseminate information, and suggestions to improve information gathering within the Action Center and 911 response centers. The Animal Welfare Division approved the staffing request for five additional positions mid-year 2019.

National Law Enforcement Council (NLEC)
Led by former Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, the National Law Enforcement Council was created in 2019 by Animal Wellness Foundation and Animal Wellness Action to strengthen federal, state, and local laws against animal cruelty. “One measure of a civil society is how it treats its most vulnerable members, and few are as vulnerable as the animals,” says Edmondson.

Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary
Formerly Mindy’s Memory Primate Sanctuary, Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary of Newcastle, Oklahoma, was verified by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) in April 2019. Verified status requires an organization meet GFAS’s peer-reviewed animal care standards and adhere

to a demanding set of ethical and operational principles. The sanctuary currently cares for more than eighty animals on just over twelve acres.

PAAS Transports 5,000th Dog
In November 2019, Peaceful Animal Adoption Shelter (PAAS) transported its 5,000th dog out of Oklahoma for adoption. PAAS is a regional hub transferring and coordinating a network of thirteen rural municipality shelters across the state.

Site Wind Right
Developed by the Nature Conservancy, the Site Wind Right project was launched in 2019 to identify areas in the Great Plains where wind development is unlikely to encounter wildlife-related conflict, project delays, and related cost overruns. Wind projects in low-impact places are less likely to be canceled, resulting in more reliable and efficient renewable energy deployment as the Earth faces the climate change and energy crisis.

Specialty License Plate
A 2017 task force overseen by Kirkpatrick Foundation and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association redesigned the Animal Friendly state-issued license plate, the proceeds from which support the Pet Overpopulation Fund.



PHILANTHROPIC SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

“Compassion for animals is intimately associated with goodness of character, and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man.”

—ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER | *The Basis of Morality*

- A SELECTION OF ANIMAL FUNDERS IN OKLAHOMA**
- AKC Canine Health Foundation
 - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
 - Arnall Family Foundation
 - Banfield Foundation
 - Bernice Barbour
 - Cresap Family Foundation
 - E. L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation
 - Flint Family Foundation
 - Kirkpatrick Foundation
 - Lockhart Foundation
 - Maddie's Fund
 - Mary K. Oxley Foundation
 - McCasland Foundation
 - Morris Animal Foundation
 - Petfinder.com
 - PetSmart Charities
 - Sarkeys Foundation
 - Summerlee Foundation

Kirkpatrick Foundation is a proud member of two national philanthropy-serving organizations, Philanthropy Southwest and Animal Grantmakers.

Both of these groups help the foundation refine its philanthropic practice, while also advancing animal wellbeing efforts in public life.

Founded in 1949, Philanthropy Southwest's mission is to “foster meaningful philanthropy and trusted relationships that impact the Southwest region's people, communities, and most pressing issues.” Philanthropy Southwest serves hundreds of organizations in the Southwestern United States.

Animal Grantmakers' mission is “to help maximize the effectiveness of work undertaken by animal protection funders for the communities they serve.” Begun in 1999 with sixteen members, the organization now includes thirty-two organizations. Members of Animal Grantmakers must be engaged in grantmaking that

benefits animals and whose giving is at a consistent, significant level on behalf of animal protection and is purely charitable in purpose. Funding interests of its members cover a wide spectrum of animal species and issue areas, including companion animals, captive and free-ranging wildlife, farmed animals, and animals used in research. Kirkpatrick Foundation joined the group not long after the start of the Safe & Humane initiative.

A key purpose of participating in these organizations is the sharing, learning from, and network building between both groups. In October 2013, Louisa McCune gave an overview of the Safe & Humane initiative

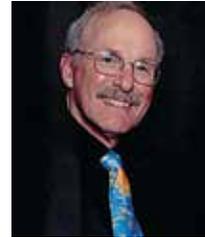
to the members of Philanthropy Southwest at the San Antonio conference. McCune, who served on its board of directors for eight years, cited ways philanthropy can help animal wellbeing such as humane education and prioritizing animal wellbeing and proper sheltering as a key ingredient to overall community health.

Paulette Black, retired Kirkpatrick Foundation senior program officer, served on Philanthropy Southwest's conference committee for five years and routinely advised on animal wellbeing topics for its annual agenda.

McCune currently serves as the 2020 president of the board of directors of Animal Grantmakers and 2021 chair of Philanthropy Southwest's annual conference committee. By being part of these organizations, foundation staff develop relationships and deepen their understanding of current animal issues undertaken by other nonprofits in the United States and globally.

LEADERS AND ADVISORS, 2012–2020

These individuals have led or consulted on Kirkpatrick Foundation's Safe & Humane endeavors since the initiative's debut in July 2012.



Phil Arkow
National Link Coalition
Arkow is coordinator for the National Link Coalition. He advises the Oklahoma Link Coalition, the ASPCA, and other organizations about the link between human and animal violence.



Cynthia Armstrong
The Humane Society of the United States
As Oklahoma senior state director, Armstrong leads major campaigns to protect Oklahoma animals including the ban on cockfighting and ending puppy mills.



Matt Biggar
Connected to Place
A strategy consultant from San Francisco, Biggar supports the work of Common Bonds through planning, implementation, and assessment of cross-sector partnerships.



Paulette Black
Kirkpatrick Foundation (retired)
A senior program officer from 2006 to 2019, Black helped co-found the Oklahoma Link Coalition and was an active member of Animal Grantmakers.



Kelly Burley
Common Bonds
As director of Common Bonds, Burley oversees a leadership initiative designed to end the needless euthanasia of cats and dogs in Oklahoma by the year 2025.



Nicholas Gilman
Humane Logic
Gilman advises non-profits and foundations around the country on the subject of animal sheltering. He has worked extensively with Pets & People Humane Society, among others.



Brian Ted Jones
Attorney
Jones, an Oklahoma City lawyer, led the Kirkpatrick Foundation analysis of State Question 777 in 2016. As education director, he made several presentations around the state on the matter.



Christian Keesee
Kirkpatrick Foundation
Keesee serves as chairman of the board of Kirkpatrick Foundation and president of the board of Kirkpatrick Family Fund. He is a member of the National Council for The Humane Society of the United States.



Randall Lockwood
University of Florida
For more than thirty years, Lockwood has worked with law-enforcement agencies as an expert on human-animal issues and testified in dozens of trials involving animal cruelty and dog-attack fatalities.



Joe Maxwell
Family Farm Action
Maxwell has served as a state representative, state senator, and lieutenant governor of Missouri. Maxwell works to keep markets open for family farms and independent ranchers.



Louisa McCune
Kirkpatrick Foundation
As executive director, McCune oversees foundation operations and the Safe & Humane initiative. She currently serves as the Animal Grantmakers board president.



Bob Meadow
Lake Research Partners
For thirty years, Meadow has provided opinion research and strategic advice for advocacy organizations, including species-specific animal protection groups.



Ann Olson
Animal Folks
As founder and executive director of Animal Folks, Olson works to protect animals in Minnesota by finding innovative ways to prevent animal cruelty and improve how animal law is enforced.



Patricia Olson, DVM
Animal Welfare and Research Institute
A former president of Morris Animal Foundation, Olson has created programs that foster the human-animal bond. She also consults on humane and healthy transportation of animals worldwide.



Manda Overturf Shank
Kirkpatrick Foundation
As program officer, Overturf Shank manages Safe & Humane projects for the foundation, including various publications and coordinating the ANIMAL conferences.



Wayne Pacelle
Animal Wellness Foundation
Pacelle is the CEO of Animal Wellness Foundation and the former president of the Humane Society of the United States. He is widely credited for creating the global movement to protect animals.



Bernard Rollin
Colorado State University
Rollin is a leading animal-ethics philosopher and scholar and developed the world's first courses in veterinary medical ethics.



Andrew Rowan
Wellbeing International
As CEO of Wellbeing International and the former CEO of the Humane Society International, Rowan has written many books on pet overpopulation, wildlife conservation, and animals used in research.



Philip Tedeschi
Institute for Human-Animal Connection
As executive director, Tedeschi studies and teaches at the University of Denver on the intricate relationship between people, domestic and wild animals, and the natural world.

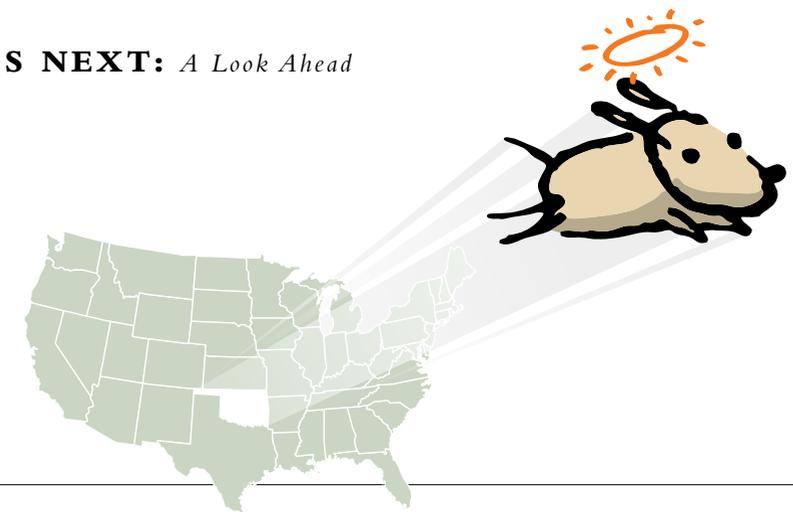


Kristy Wicker
Researcher
Wicker coauthored *The Oklahoma Animal Study* and helped edit the *Reporting Animal Cruelty* manual. She is a member of the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee.



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gas chambers no longer used in Oklahoma for dog or cat euthanasia. 2. Removal of Black-Capped Vireo from endangered species list. 3. Eighteen domestic violence shelters with arrangements for pet care. 4. Oklahoma City Animal Welfare reaches a live-release rate of 85 percent. 5. Creation of Oklahoma Link Coalition with seventy member organizations and cited nationally as leader in state coalitions. 6. Creation of Common Bonds initiative to reach statewide 90 percent live-release rate by 2025. 7. Disbandment of University of Oklahoma baboon breeding facility. 8. Widespread media surrounding policy proposal SQ 777, which educated Oklahoma voters about farm animal conditions, the environment, human-health pesticide concerns, and farming and ranching issues. 9. A new transformational animal shelter approved by Oklahoma City voters. 10. Animal law program forms at Oklahoma City University School of Law. 11. Passage of Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act protecting animal abuse on a federal level. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reach 90 percent live-release rate for all Oklahoma dogs and cats in public animal shelters. 2. Implement quality standards for shelters and increase low-cost spay and neuter clinics throughout rural Oklahoma. 3. Lower horse deaths on Oklahoma race tracks. 4. Prohibit the private possession of wild dangerous exotic animals. 5. Prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a parked vehicle in a manner that endangers the animal's health. 6. Improve enforcement of existing laws regarding animal fighting. 7. Prohibit convicted animal abusers from possessing animals for at least five years after the abuser's release from custody. 8. Prohibit use of animals in product testing when reasonable alternatives are available. 9. Recognize wind and solar farms throughout state for observing habitat-friendly practices. 10. Ensure zoos and sanctuaries are accredited by Association of Zoos & Aquariums or Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. 11. Consider moratorium on CAFOs until substantive research can eliminate the threat to drinking water, air quality, human health, and animal wellbeing. 12. Support sustainable soil and water conservation practices and programs for farm, private, and public lands to conserve habitats and communities for future generations of human and animals. 13. Establish responsible consumer and corporate use of plastic and carbon emissions standards to decrease environmental degradation. |
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WHAT'S NEXT: A Look Ahead



JJ RITCHEY

In concluding our report, our collective work demonstrates an energized movement is underway. It's important to remember that Safe & Humane is more than a list of accomplishments, data points, or Kirkpatrick Foundation projects. The baselines mentioned throughout this report have given the foundation awareness of major issues facing Oklahoma animals. But it is through relationships built nationally and local work that we create lasting tools by which to uplift the quality of life for all in the state.

Current accomplishments in the state, as detailed in this report, and potential steps that can be accomplished are based on the goals of projects such as Common Bonds, *The Oklahoma Animal Study*, the ALDF and HSUS ranking standards, and recommendations by animal wellbeing experts. The path forward for the next twelve years employs the same strategy as defined in *Safe & Humane: A New Vision* (2012) with goals similar to those established in *The Oklahoma Animal Study* (2016). But just as ALDF modified its rankings based on recent legislative innovations, Kirkpatrick Foundation openly acknowledges that the work of Safe & Humane will be reviewed and updated ongoingly. Although the guiding principles of the initiative remain the same, how specific

issues are addressed will change based on opportunities and relationships created through ongoing projects. More importantly, the foundation recognizes that the accomplishments listed are the results of the work of many organizations and therefore likely to change over time. In the 2018 book *One Welfare: A Framework to Improve Animal Welfare and Human Well-Being*, Rebeca García Pinillos outlines that animal, human, and environmental welfare policy and efforts must be integrated, complementary, and collaborative to create a sustainable healthier future for all species worldwide. Just as we use the phrase, "Where animals fare well, people fare well," García Pinillos says that violence and poor animal welfare are related to poor human conditions.

Conversely, positive welfare outcomes for one species create positive outcomes for others. Measurable data or national rankings may or may not come from the collaborations described elsewhere in this report, but progress toward a more humane Oklahoma does. As García Pinillos says, "Improvements in animal welfare do not always progress as expected." We do know that including animals in the discussion around community wellbeing has undeniable momentum. We can illustrate this with many examples but two recent impactful policy shifts perhaps say the most: in November 2019, federal legislation passed making egregious animal cruelty a federal offense, and, a month later, Oklahoma City municipal voters passed a tax proposal which included a \$38 million transformational new animal shelter. Future goals and projects of the foundation will continue to be reshaped and modified by the relationships and skills of other groups from across the state, the US, and the globe. By continually reviewing our progress and the work of remarkable organizations throughout the state and nation, Kirkpatrick Foundation is better positioned to take up animal wellbeing opportunities and to move the dial toward a safer and more humane Oklahoma.

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Kirkpatrick Foundation, started by John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick, is a private foundation located in Oklahoma City. Since 1955, the foundation has funded a wide range of endeavors, primarily in the arts, culture, education, animal wellbeing, environmental conservation, and historic preservation.

THE ARTWORK

COVER

Martin Johnson Heade
Hummingbird and Passionflowers, detail
(c. 1875–85)
Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

INSIDE FRONT COVER

Alexandre-François Desportes
Panthers of Bacchus Eating Grapes, detail (c. 1719–20)
Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

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Hans Hoffmann
A Hare in the Forest, detail
(c. 1585)
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Young Herdsmen with Cows, detail
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Young Lady in 1866, detail (1866)
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Sir Thomas Lawrence
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Joseph Bartholomew Kidd
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Jean-Baptiste Oudry
Still Life with Monkey, Fruits, and Flowers, detail (1724)
The Art Institute of Chicago

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George Stubbs
The Third Duke of Dorset's Hunter with a Groom and a Dog, detail (1768)
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Jean-Léon Gérôme
Tiger and Cubs, detail (c. 1884)
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Max Liebermann
An Old Woman with Cat, detail (1878)
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Jacob van Strij
Landscape with Cattle, detail (c. 1800)
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BACK COVER

Paulus Potter
The "Piebald" Horse, detail (c. 1650–54)
J. Paul Getty Museum of Los Angeles



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KIRKPATRICK FOUNDATION | 1001 WEST WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73116

Telephone: (405) 608-0934 | KirkpatrickFoundation.com | Twitter: @kirkpatrickfdn | Facebook: Kirkpatrick Foundation