

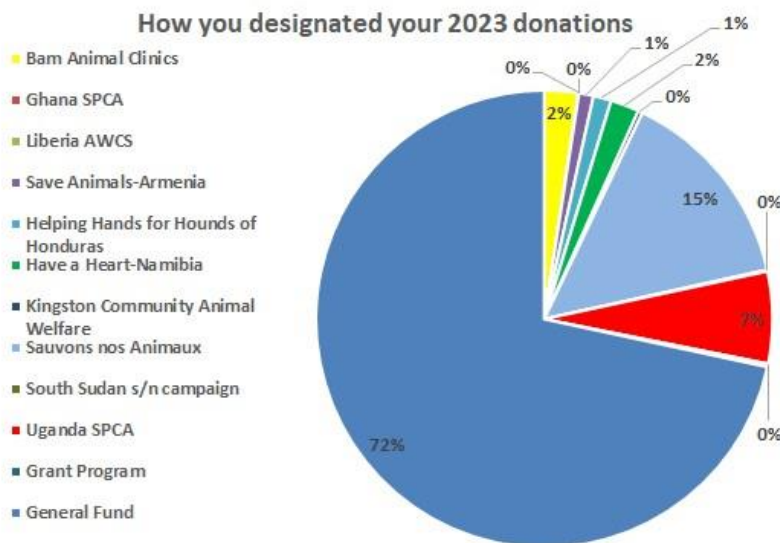


Animal-Kind International Annual Report-2023

In 2023, we focused on two of our three main programs, (1) support for our Partner Organizations and (2) the Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program:

- 1) We raised money for and provided technical and administrative support to our Partner Organizations in Africa, Latin America/Caribbean (LAC), and the “outlier,” the Caucasus (Partner Organization, Save Animals-Armenia). Having worked with them closely, in person, and because we continuously vet them, our Partner Organizations receive ongoing funding from us for their priority animal welfare needs.
- 2) We supported eight recipients under our 6th annual Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program (2023). Our Grantees receive one-time funding based on a winning proposal submitted during our open grant competition period.
- 3) Our “Friendly Audits” Program helps animal welfare organizations in non-financial ways. By providing a volunteer mentor for targeted Africa-based animal welfare organizations, this program strengthens administrative and technical capacities of select organizations. With fewer volunteers for our Friendly Audits in 2023 than we’ve had since 2020, when we first started the program, we were unable to fill the many requests.

1. Support to AKI Partner Organizations



We provide financial, technical, and administrative support to our Partner Organizations. Our financial support is based on the amount of total donations we receive; the amount that donors designate for the specific Partner (←); need and capacity of the Partner to use the funds; and on the quality (accountability, transparency, clear and regular communications) of the Partner’s reporting.

Looking to the future, at the AKI Board’s end-of-year meeting in December 2023, Board members voted to add a new Partner Organization in 2024, Twala Trust-Zimbabwe. The Board also agreed to drop Save Animals-Armenia as a Partner

Organization starting in January 2024. This decision was based primarily on our plan to focus more on our two target regions (Africa and LAC), as well as on SA-Armenia’s changed focus on finding adoptive homes outside of Armenia. We felt that this diverges from Animal-Kind International’s aim to strengthen local organizations so they can improve the lives of animals within their own countries (and the related efforts involved, including humane education). At our end-of-year meeting, the Board made no other changes to AKI Partner Organizations for 2024.

Below is summary information about AKI support to our Partner Organizations during 2023.

AFRICA

Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals: In 2023, we continued to support the USPCA’s two shelters, the “old” Haven and the new shelter, providing approximately 40% of the USPCA’s operating expenses. Just over 50% of our support to the USPCA went towards rent of the old Haven shelter (we covered the cost for the full year of rent); 1/3 of AKI support was used to pay USPCA staff salaries (for six staff members for one year); and the USPCA used 10% of AKI funds to purchase cat and dog food for the more than 350 dogs and cats at the two shelters. We also



paid for new uniforms and gumboots for 11 staff members and rabies boosters for 12 staff (including the USPCA vet).

(← USPCA staff at The Haven, wearing their AKI-purchased uniforms and gumboots (Assistant Manager, Jackie, took the picture).)



(←USPCA staff at the new shelter location, wearing their AKI-purchased uniforms and gumboots.)

As we reported last year, unexpectedly, the USPCA is now required to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment to Uganda’s National Environmental Management Authority for construction at the new shelter site. Relatively new

legislation requires that any facility where more than 50 dogs will be kept must comply with this additional analysis and permit. Once the USPCA was given notice of this requirement, construction at the new site stopped and throughout 2023, the new shelter has been limited to holding only 50 dogs.

We've been working with the USPCA to obtain the background documents needed and then, to complete the environmental review. However, it can be a lengthy process. During this time, the USPCA has had to cover the costs of operating both shelters.

On average, the USPCA rescues two to three animals/day every day; typically, the USPCA rescues and accepts into their shelters about 1200 dogs and cats/year. Many are found on the street nursing puppies or kittens, some are left behind when their owners move away and lock them in their compound with no access to food or water, others have been hit by cars or are targeted for poisoning, and many have suffered abuse and need to be emotionally rehabilitated in addition to healing their physical ailments.

Our support to USPCA in 2023 ensured that even with the unexpected expenses of operating two shelters, the USPCA could continue rescuing and providing vet care, and could feed the >350 cats and dogs in their care.

(→One of the more difficult rescues from 2023 was this dog, who was found tied to a post, with all 4 legs and snout bound. In this photo, Assistant Manager Jackie is untying the knots. We were so grateful that a kind-hearted person notified the USPCA in time to save this dog!)



Alarmed at the very end of 2023 about the drop in donations that the USPCA received during the year (donations of food in addition to financial support directly to USPCA and USPCA-designated AKI donations), and thanks to a generous AKI supporter, we created the Elaine Law Memorial Pet Food Fund for USPCA (which as of January 2024 will begin to provide funds for USPCA's pet food). We hope that it will be as successful at raising money as our pet food fund for Partner Organization Sauvons nos Animaux (Congo) has been.

A USPCA Executive Committee member asked us to, "Please convey our enormous gratitude to all your supporters for their contributions towards the USPCA...."

Bam Animal Clinics-Uganda used the bulk of AKI funds for their donkey welfare program in eastern Uganda. We also helped support Bam's overall operating costs at their headquarters in Iganga, where they spay/neuter and provide other vet care for small animals (cats and dogs).

Bam's 2023 donkey welfare activities took place in the eastern districts of Bududa, Manafwa, Bukwo, and Namisindwa (the district with the highest concentration of donkeys in the Elgon region). For the first time, Bam worked in Tulel and Kamet sub counties in Bukwo District. In these districts in 2023, with AKI funding, Bam held community vet clinics, providing free care, treating at least 100 donkeys every day they held a clinic, and during the year, reached a few thousand donkeys, providing the only accessible and skilled donkey care available.



← At a community donkey clinic in August 2023 in Namisindwa district, Bam found that most of the donkeys had sores on their backs from carrying heavy loads without proper saddles. Bam not only treats these injuries at their clinics, they also give advice to donkey owners to help prevent overuse injuries. Along with Bam’s humane saddle training, these efforts help ensure that donkey owners have the tools they need to better care for their donkeys.

At humane saddle making training courses (August 2023→) donkey owners are shown how to make and maintain humane saddles out of readily available sisal sacks. Each donkey owner gets to keep at least one saddle for their own use. Bam distributed 400 humane saddles for free to donkey owners during 2023.



AKI covered all costs associated with community vet clinics and humane saddle making training courses, including transport to the sites; accommodation; veterinary procedures that require more specialized surgeons; supplies and medications (e.g., to treat internal parasites, skin infections, and wounds, multivitamins, sprays against ticks and flies); and sisal sacks and other humane saddle-making supplies. For donkeys with severe conditions, Bam equips local animal healthcare workers and vets to follow up.

During a clinic in Namisindwa, David Balondemu (founder/director of Bam Animal Clinics) told us that the condition of the donkeys was “appalling” and if not for AKI-supported Bam clinics, they would never get the help they so need.

Have A Heart-Namibia: As we have over the last few years, in 2023, we continued to support HaH’s two priority needs, the AKI-HaH Emergency Fund and the HaH Lifetime Care Program. The Emergency Fund pays for emergency care for pets whose owners are unable to afford the needed care (having had their pet spayed/neutered or agreeing to s/n after the care, is a requirement for receiving Emergency Fund support). The Lifetime Care Program provides boosters and parasite prevention for all returning HaH s/n clients-for life.

HaH believes (as we do) that it’s best to keep an already s/n’d pet healthy, rather than spend the effort on s/n only to see the animal suffer and die because of lack of accessible care (which was too often the case for HaH s/n clients prior to starting these two programs). The Emergency Fund and Lifetime Care are HaH’s commitment to their s/n clients that HaH will continue to help ensure their pet’s wellbeing.



In 2023, the AKI-HaH Emergency Fund treated 43 dogs, 28 cats, and one horse. The HaH Lifetime Care Program gave booster shots and parasite preventative to 491 dogs and [only] one cat.

(←When he was attacked by a dog, the Emergency Fund covered 100% of the costs for this horse’s vet care. As severe as they were, by the second visit to the vet clinic, most of the horse’s injuries had already healed.)

A 2023 Emergency Fund recipient who really touched our hearts was Kitsy. She was attacked by a dog when she was pregnant and ran off, injured and terrified. Kitsy’s family searched for her and finally, she came crawling back home, close to death. The Emergency Fund was used to pay all of Kitsy’s expenses, including amputation of a leg and her tail→.

The long hospital stay and Kitsy’s intensive care cost only US\$192! We always exclaim how money goes so much further for our Partner Organizations than for similar situations in “western,” “wealthier” countries and Kitsy’s story, <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/have-a-heart-namibia-kitsy-s-story>, is a perfect example.



Geesche (Have a Heart-Namibia) told us that a vet, who helps with many of our AKI-HaH Emergency Fund cases, said that the work she does for HaH/AKI is what keeps her motivated. She has to euthanize so many cats and dogs in her private practice, it can be so discouraging. But because of her “HaH/AKI work, she can see there’s still hope and just knowing that she is able to do what is best for the animal regardless that the owner can’t afford to pay is so important for her. She said all what she does for HaH and AKI makes the work with/for her private clients manageable.”

Liberia Animal Welfare & Conservation Society: In 2023, with AKI funding, LAWCS paid the salaries of up to four of their full-time staff. This meant that LAWCS had the “people power” to run their Humane Education Program and to hold community animal care clinics throughout Lofa County, throughout the year.

Abie, the LAWCS animal health care officer in charge of LAWCS community clinics, traveled to remote parts of Lofa County, week after week, to provide the only animal health care available in these areas. When Abie left LAWCS to pursue his studies, we covered the salary of his replacement.

(→A LAWCS community clinic, July 2023, where basic animal health care is provided free of charge.)



With AKI funds, LAWCS also purchased the medicines and other supplies used during these clinics and they paid for fuel and maintenance of the motorbike to reach remote areas where the clinics are held. In 2023, thousands of cats and dogs received a general check-up, anti-parasite treatment, rabies and parvo vaccinations, wound care, and other basic care thanks to these community clinics, run by LAWCS, funded entirely by AKI.



←During the 2nd half of 2023, AKI funds were also used to support the Humane Ed Program in Zorzor, Lofa County’s second largest city. This program reaches all ages of students and teaches them kindness to animals (versus what they most often learn at home—fear of animals). LAWCS used AKI funds to purchase supplies for the Humane Ed students in Zorzor.

LAWCS also used AKI funds for 12 months of rent of their office/clinic in Voinjama, the largest city in Lofa County. In addition to treating pet clients there, the office gives LAWCS a visible presence in Voinjama, where they can receive visitors who are interested in animal care, who are reporting animal cruelty, and who need advice and other help for their pets.

It’s only because LAWCS’s staff live and work in these communities that they have successfully improved the conditions, attitudes, and behaviors towards animals.

From Morris Darbo, LAWCS Founder/Director: “Thank you very much for the acknowledgement and continued support towards the work we do in Liberia for animals and people. We are always grateful to you, the board members and the supporters of AKI for being the pillar for the work we do.”

Sauvons nos Animaux-Democratic Republic of Congo: Most importantly, during 2023, thanks to AKI’s Shirlee Christensen Memorial Pet Food Fund, we covered the cost for 100% of the cat and dog food that SnA needed to feed a substantial and nutritious diet to the cats and dogs at their shelter. Back in 2022, during a visit to the shelter, we made a commitment to SnA that the shelter’s dogs and cats would never again have to survive on rice alone, which at times they were forced to do when SnA donations dried up. For more than one year, we’ve been able to keep our commitment.

When SnA became an AKI Partner Organization in 2022, their shelter staff hadn’t been paid for several months. In 2023, SnA used AKI funds to fully pay the salaries of the five to six animal caretakers who worked at the shelter during the year.

SnA's shelter backs up to a steep slope and every year during the rainy season, the kennels and other infrastructure, not to mention, the lives of dogs, cats, and people are at risk due to floods, mud and landslides. And every year, SnA needs to spend money to fix the damage.

In early 2023, the sheet metal fence along SnA's upper boundary (providing at least some protection against flooding and mud and landslides) blew over in heavy winds. In discussions with Paterne (founder/director), we agreed that a permanent solution was needed, even if expensive. We and SnA could no longer accept the risks, which are only expected to get worse due to climate change. In response, we sent SnA money to build a wall and drainage structures along the upper boundary of the shelter property →.



← In 2023, SnA's Pet Friendly Kids Camp hosted about 245 children, Monday-Friday, for seven weeks during school break. The campers spent their days at the shelter, where they learned about cats and dogs, helped with tasks around the shelter, and played games like soccer and checkers. SnA used AKI funds to purchase camp supplies (photocopies of puzzles, games, and coloring books with animals, gardening tools, and food for the campers).

SnA also used AKI funds to purchase supplies for the shelter and for their daily Youth Club, which welcomes local kids to the shelter year-round to learn and help with shelter tasks.

The Six Freedoms-Ghana became an AKI Partner Organization in January 2023; the only change we made to our Partner Organizations in 2023. T6F works to improve the treatment, care, and understanding of horses throughout Ghana. When there's a need and no other option, they will



rescue a horse and provide care at one of two locations, a stable in Kokrobite or at a ranch in Akim Asafo.

(← Saza when rescued; and Saza now, about 6 years old)

T6F can use these locations, but their goal is to establish their own horse sanctuary, where they can care for and rehabilitate horses-in-need and train people who work with horses or are interested in working with horses. Their vision is to have a sanctuary open to the public, a serene place to learn to appreciate horses and to be trained in horse behavior, nutrition, and care.

In 2023, T6F used AKI funds to purchase food and supplements for their rescued horses, many of them sick and/or weak from years of abuse. AKI funds also covered vet bills, de-wormers, and maintenance and repair of the stables.

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



T6F wants to bring dignity and respect to the job of groom/horse caretaker, and the first step is to pay them a living wage. Along with T6F, we believe that this will greatly improve the treatment of horses in their care. Grooms are responsible for feeding, hoof and tooth care, cutting grass for feed, cleaning out stables, and general grooming. (←Maxwell, a groom at the Asafo ranch, where grooms are treated with respect, paid a living wage, and in turn, they provide

skilled and humane care of the horses.) In 2023, T6F used AKI funds for a horse care workshop taught by Eva I. (T6F volunteer) for Accra Turf Club jockeys and horse caretakers. T6F hopes to sponsor more expert trainings someday at their own sanctuary.



South Sudan Spay/Neuter Campaign: During 2023, the South Sudan spay/neuter team (of which AKI is a part) decided that to move the spay/neuter project forward, the local team members would register as an official charity in South Sudan. That would give the group more authority and a “seat at the table” with government and other NGOs. (←Alex and Moses (local team members) with Kathrin, who often works in South Sudan, and who has been a part of the wider s/n team for several years, meeting in Juba to discuss plans for the new charity.)

Over the last five years, we've raised the funds, collected supplies, gotten the required approvals, and made a plan (which includes training by Kenya SPCA) to hold the first ever s/n campaign in South Sudan. The work was stymied first by Covid, then by changes in government, which have meant that the local team members have had to get approvals from Ministries several times over.

Now, we feel confident that South Sudan will not only get their first s/n campaign, but they will also soon have their first local animal welfare organization.

Ghana Society for the Protection & Care of Animals: We've provided only minimal support for GSPCA during the past few years (mainly we've kept their website operating), primarily due to Covid-19 and the shutdown of Ghana's schools, and then because we requested an evaluation/information about results of their Humane Ed work, which is still pending.

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN

Kingston (Jamaica) Community Animal Welfare used AKI funds to help dogs and cats who live on Kingston's streets and who belong to families with no/very low income. AKI donors covered about 75% of KCAW's operating costs in 2023 and helped about 1000 cats and dogs. KCAW used AKI funds to purchase cat and dog food (about 60%); for surgeries and other vet care (25%); and the remainder for purchasing meds and other vet supplies, mainly anti-parasite and wound treatment.



AKI funded the spay/neuter of 52 dogs and cats (36 females and 16 males, 40 cats and 12 dogs) living on Kingston's streets or with impoverished families. Other cases requiring vet care and paid for with AKI funding included a dog with a hematoma (surgery was required to repair it); a cat with severe dehydration (required hospitalization and IV treatment); ← a mobile vet visit for a cat, Scotty, who was having seizures; Chester the cat who had severe colitis; a dog with a maggot wound

on his head; a seven-month old puppy with a fractured leg; a dog with a perforated hernia; and a two-year old dog with suspected poisoning.

The only organization in Kingston that helps the many cats and dogs living on the city's streets, KCAW's support for pets who live with no/low-income families helps keep pets healthy and well-fed and prevents them from ending up on the city's streets, where they have to fend for themselves. (→two of the oldest street dogs in Kingston, fed and cared for by KCAW for many years)

KCAW's small shelter (constructed several years ago thanks to a generous AKI supporter) with five dog pens and a large, fenced outdoor area for cats is used when an animal needs to be relocated to a safe spot or for dogs and cats who just aren't suited for life on Kingston's streets. KCAW works with a network of animal rescuers and caregivers in Kingston, who help find adoptive homes and who sometimes foster cats and dogs.



After a particularly harrowing rescue, Deborah (founder/director) said to us, “I guess I’m driven. You really have to have the passion to do what we do. Like when I fail to catch a dog or cat that’s wounded or at risk of dying I literally don’t sleep and can’t wait for the next day to find them.”

Helping Hands for Hounds of Honduras: In 2023, AKI donors covered about 65% of HHHH’s running costs for the Nereida Montes de Oca Refuge (the HHHH Sanctuary), primarily a sanctuary for old, sick, and essentially unadoptable dogs and cats. By far, HHHH’s biggest expense is cat and dog food (93% of AKI funds went towards food).



Vet care in Honduras is relatively inexpensive; even so Pilar’s vet gives her deep discounts for medicines, surgeries, and other vet care. HHHH used 3% of AKI funds for medicine (mainly antibiotics and anti-parasite meds) and 4% for surgery and other vet care (removal of Bunny dog’s eye, a pyometra case, blood tests, spay/neuter).

Since HHHH is essentially an “old folks home,” every year we sadly say good bye to some of our old favorites. In 2023, long-time HHHH residents, Susy, Bootsy, and Thor ← died. Thor was a rottweiler, who spent his life at the Sanctuary; the only interest in him came from people who wanted to adopt

him as a guard dog, and Thor was no guard dog!

Pilar (HHHH founder/director) has always mentored the next generation of animal caregivers, and in 2023, HHHH put even more effort into working with other rescuers and shelters. Pilar worked with Org ARI and founder, Wendy, providing support to the Org ARI shelter and coordinating humane ed visits to local schools. →



CAUCASUS REGION

Save the Animals-Armenia used AKI funds to pay for ‘special food’ -- Royal Canin--for a litter of rescued puppies and to pay the costs for their care, and for sterilization of the mama dog. The remainder of AKI funds were used to buy food for SA-A shelter dogs and street dogs.

2. Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program

For our sixth (2023) annual Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program, we received 55 eligible grant applications and funded eight projects (two each in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, and one each in Morocco and Namibia). The grant program is designed specifically for African organizations, where there are fewer options for funding than in most other regions.

All grant projects must be completed within six months (by the end of March). As of December 31, 2023, three have been completed and five were still ongoing at the start of 2024. Information about

each grant and progress reports are here: <https://www.animal-kind.org/grant-program-2023>. We awarded grants to:

SPCA Grahamstown (South Africa), a two-time AKI grant recipient (2022 and 2023), for *Project Vala*. ‘Vala’ means ‘close/shut’ in isiXhosa, and is the term used by the Xhosa community when speaking of sterilizing an animal. <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/spca-grahamstown-completes-spay-neuter-grant-project> (grant completed)

Morocco Animal Aid for their project, *Providing shelter and medical care to 550 Moroccan Street Animals*, <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/morocco-animal-aid-provides-food-vet-care-with-a-grant-from-aki>. After the earthquake in Morocco, we also provided a special grant for MAA’s disaster response efforts. (grant completed)

Matabeleland Animal Rescue & Equine Sanctuary (Zimbabwe), a two-time AKI grant recipient (2021 and 2023), for their project, *Bulawayo Matabeleland Cat Sterilization Campaign*, for which a total of 103 kitties were sterilized. <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/mares-completes-their-grant-project-103-kitties-tnvr-d> (grant completed)

The Twala Trust Animal Sanctuary (Zimbabwe), a two-time AKI grant recipient (2022 and 2023), for their project, *Doggy Tuesday – Keeping the Rural Dogs in Goromonzi, Zimbabwe Fed and Healthy*, <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/twala-trust-zimbabwe-from-aki-grantee-to-partner-organization>

Tanzania Small Animal Veterinary Organization for their project, *Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, & Return*, which aims to sterilize 600 dogs and cats and vaccinate 1000 against rabies over the six-month period. <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/tasavo-s-tanzania-spay-neuter-education-success-some-surprises>

Blind Love (South Africa) for *The Big Build Project*, to erect field shelters for all their rescued horses (12) and donkeys (21). <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/blind-love-our-grant-is-protecting-horses-donkeys> and <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/blind-love-2-donkeys-a-retired-cart-horse>

Bubu's Animal Haven (Namibia) for *Project Cat House and general care of lifelong residents at the sanctuary*. Together we agreed that their grant would also cover a fenced area where the rescued cats could safely go outside without threatening local wildlife →.



Voluntary Education & Relief Initiative for Tanzanian Society for their project, *Humane population control of stray dogs and feral cats by using TNVR at Western Tanzania in Kasulu-Kigoma in 5 target locations*, <https://www.animal-kind.org/post/veritas-completes-their-humane-population-control-project>

3. “Friendly Audit” Program

We started the Friendly Audit Program in 2020, in part due to Covid-19 and in part because it addresses a gap in administrative and technical support and capacity of many Africa-based animal welfare organizations. Since so many people were homebound due to Covid-19 restrictions and interested in virtual volunteer opportunities, we developed the Friendly Audit process to link volunteers (mentors) with select animal welfare organizations.

By 2023, all but two of our Friendly Audit volunteers had completed their mentorships. One 2023 volunteer mentor helped an organization with translation and editing and another developed a new website for one of our Partner Organizations. Many more organizations requested assistance under this program than volunteer mentors were available in 2023.



4. Supplies to Animal Welfare Organizations

Besides financial support, AKI sends or carries supplies to our Partners and other animal welfare organizations, depending on donations we receive, an organization's needs, and availability of a traveler. In 2023, thanks to Dr M in New Mexico, who donated a windfall of supplies to AKI, we delivered vet supplies to our Partner Sauvons nos Animaux-DRC (and also brought humane ed material, and from two amazingly generous donors, a Nikon camera and a laptop).

We also sent Dr M's supplies to Partners Kingston Community Animal Welfare and Helping Hands for Hounds of Honduras. → And we delivered sutures, other vet supplies, humane education and shelter supplies, to our Partner Organizations in Uganda, USPCA and Bam.



5. Other Animal-Kind International Activities and Support-2023

Site Visits: AKI Director, Karen, visited Partner Organizations Uganda SPCA (spent time at both USPCA shelters, met with USPCA Executive Committee members and USPCA staff, shopped for uniforms for staff); Bam Animal Clinics-Uganda (participated in a community rabies and s/n clinic), and Sauvons nos Animaux-Congo (visited the shelter, met with staff, shopped for dog and cat food).

Pet Portraits: (and Pet & People Portraits) An AKI supporter creates digital Pet Portraits that donors could request when they donated at least \$15. In 2023, Pet Portraits raised about \$2000 for AKI!

Succession Plan: We developed an AKI Succession Plan to ensure the smooth handover of AKI in case one of the key board members (officers) is no longer able to function in his or her management position.

Communication with AKI Supporters: Transparency and accountability are key to everything we do. We uphold this commitment by keeping our supporters updated about our Partners' and Grantees' activities and how we and they use AKI funds. In 2023, we:

- Wrote/published 43 AKI Blog posts about the work of our Partners and Grantees.
- Sent out 11 monthly e-newsletters to AKI supporters highlighting the work of our Partners and Grantees.
- Organized a group of six AKI supporters (in addition to the AKI Board and sector experts) to participate in the proposal evaluation process for our 2023 Africa-Based Animal Welfare Organization Grant Program.
- Wrote GlobalGiving Progress Reports every three to four months for each GlobalGiving project (funding for Have A Heart-Namibia and Uganda SPCA's new shelter).
- Updated our Guidestar profile for 2023 and obtained platinum level again (the highest).
- Obtained Great Non-Profit 2023 status, <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/animal-kind-international>
- Kept the AKI website updated and creative-thanks to website developer, Deb Newman.
- Prepared pie charts showing how our Partners used AKI funds during the year. These “snapshots” quickly and easily inform how donations are used (posted on the AKI website on our Partners’ pages).
- Sent end-of-year email messages to all monthly donors with the amount of their donations and information about what their donations accomplished.
- Regularly posted on Facebook and Instagram throughout the year.
- Started a LinkedIn page for Animal-Kind International.
- Collaborated with our Technical Advisory Group (and some international organizations that aren't members of our TAG) about organizations and issues relevant to animal welfare in Africa and the LAC region.

As in 2022, we spent considerable time in 2023 responding to requests for information about social media profiles that purport to be animal rescuers or have an animal shelter in Uganda. Although not USPCA's or AKI's role to investigate suspicious social media posts, we compiled a list of profiles that have been reported to us. We provided advice to everyone who has gotten in touch about whether a “rescuer” is legitimate. However, it's gotten very difficult to keep track of the many social media handles; names keep changing, new profiles are added daily. Fake “rescues” have made it even more difficult for animal welfare organizations in poor countries, especially in Africa, to gain the confidence of donors. This has made AKI's role of being a trusted site for information and donations even more critical.

Raising Visibility: We help raise visibility of our Partners' and Grantees' work, their needs, and challenges. In addition to the above (Communications with AKI Supporters), other 2023 activities in this area included:

- An interview on Animals Today Radio about Animal-Kind International with specific examples of our support for Uganda SPCA, Sauvons nos Animaux, and The Six Freedoms, <https://animalstodayradio.com/2023/06/04/animals-today-june-3-2023-acclaimed-animals-imaginary-and-real-early-days-of-the-audubon-society-you-can-help-dogs-cats-and-horses-in-africa-with-animal-kind-international/>
- An article by Lakes Animal Friendship Society about how AKI used LAF Society's humane ed material in Uganda (translated to Luganda).

- Hosted one session at each of three US Foreign Service Institute retirement seminars, during which we discussed the need for mentors for our Friendly Audits Program.
- Submitted a letter to the editor of Costco magazine, published in February 2023, to thank them (again) for the many donors who first heard about us in the Costco magazine (January 2015) article about AKI and that have continued to support us these many years later.
- Contacted media outlets about issues in and corrections about animal welfare in Africa.
- Participated in international fora about international animal welfare.

Requests to AKI for Financial and other Support: Most people who contacted us in 2023 requested financial assistance (about 600 requests!); this was followed by people who contacted us about the legitimacy of a rescuer or organization, as mentioned above (more than 300 requests); the next highest number of contacts were about cruelty cases; other questions were about volunteering with one of our Partners or Grantees and to obtain technical support.

The highest number of requests for financial assistance were from organizations in Africa. We also received many messages requesting support from India, South America, Central America, and eastern Europe/Balkans/Caucasus, while we received the fewest from the Middle East, and a handful from western Europe.

We received numerous reports of abandonment, cruelty, and injuries, often from people traveling to a country, looking for help for an animal, and almost as often from local people who aren't aware of any animal welfare organizations in their area. We always try to assist to the best of our ability by connecting them to our local contacts.

We continue to provide 100% of your donations to our Partners and in support of our Grant Program. We're so grateful to all of our supporters (that includes 67 of you who are monthly donors!--which I believe is an inordinately high number for a relatively small non-profit organization). In 2023, we updated and plan to keep updating this page, <https://www.animal-kind.org/saying>, because we believe it's important to hear about our work, not only from us, but also from you: **our supporters, Partner Organizations, and Grantees.**

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

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

