

ANNUAL REPORT



GLOBAL
STRAYS
2025

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FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR

This year brought clarity.

Across our programs, one truth became unmistakable: the need for early, accessible veterinary care continues to grow faster than the resources available to deliver it. Families in Nicaragua, Colombia, and Liberia care deeply for their animals, yet too often lack access to the services that prevent suffering before it escalates.

That balance underscores why prevention remains central to Global Strays' mission. Rescue is essential, and our partners carry that responsibility every day. But rescue alone cannot keep pace. Spay and neuter, early veterinary care, education, and support for working animals reduce the number of crises long before intervention is required.

We are grateful to the partners and supporters who understand that lasting change is built through consistency, trust, and long-term commitment, even when the work is quieter than a rescue story.

Thank you for standing with us,



LIZ SHAFIROFF

PRESIDENT & FOUNDER

As Board Chair, I've had the opportunity to see Global Strays' work up close this year, from the decisions being made to the impact they have on the ground.

What stands out most is the care with which resources are used. In a year where needs continued to outpace funding, the organization remained disciplined, transparent, and focused on long-term impact rather than short-term visibility. Programs were guided by what would reduce suffering most effectively over time, while maintaining strong relationships with local partners who carry this work forward every day.

I am deeply grateful to the donors who make this possible. Your support allows Global Strays to respond with intention, not urgency alone, and to invest in prevention alongside rescue. That balance is not easy, but it is essential.

Thank you for your trust and generosity. It is a privilege to support this work.

Sincerely,



INGRID ARNEBERG

BOARD CHAIR



BY THE NUMBERS

3 COUNTRIES SERVED

6 SHELTERS SUPPORTED

413 ANIMALS SPAYED/NEUTERED

789 ANIMALS RESCUED BY PARTNER SHELTERS

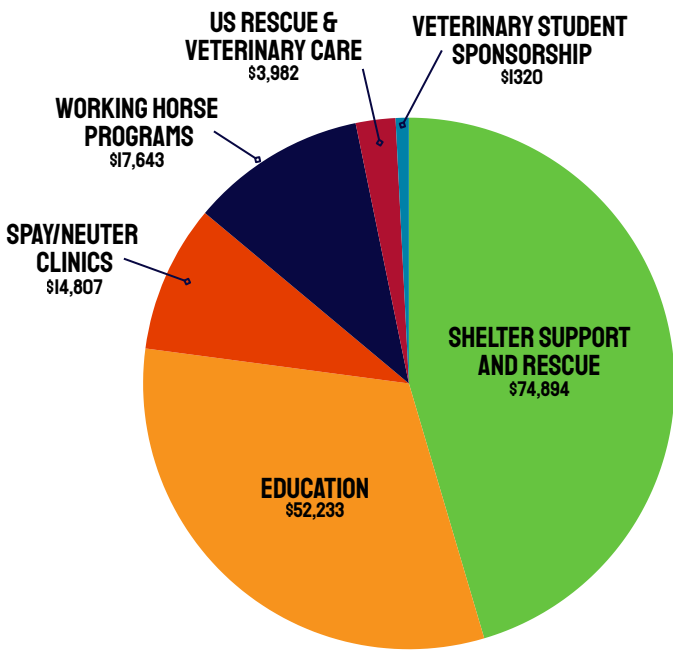
10,978 CHILDREN EDUCATED

460 HORSES RECEIVING VET CARE

146,760 MEALS FOR SHELTER ANIMALS

1307 CATS & DOGS RECEIVING VET CARE

2025 PROGRAM BUDGET



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Global Strays operates with a deliberately simple structure, allowing us to focus resources on programs rather than layers of administration. By partnering with established local organizations and veterinarians, we reduce overhead while strengthening community-led solutions.

We are committed to directing funds where they have the greatest measurable impact, prioritizing prevention and early care whenever possible. Careful oversight and transparent financial management guide every decision we make.





WORKING HORSES & COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

WORKING HORSES ARE ESSENTIAL TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE.

WHEN HORSES SUFFER, FAMILIES SUFFER.



In many parts of Nicaragua, working horses are essential to daily survival—hauling water, transporting goods, and generating income. When a horse becomes injured or ill, the impact is immediate: food does not reach the market, water does not reach homes, and families lose their ability to earn.

Led by Dr. Lester Tapia and his team, these clinics bring veterinarians, medicines, and equipment directly into underserved communities, transforming local gathering spaces into temporary field hospitals where horses receive vaccinations, dental and hoof care, wound treatment, and emergency veterinary support.

By addressing problems before they become catastrophic, this work prevents economic collapse as much as animal suffering. Early veterinary care keeps horses working, families stable, and entire communities functioning.

SPAY & NEUTER CLINICS

FEWER UNWANTED LITTERS. FEWER ANIMALS ABANDONED. LESS PRESSURE ON SHELTERS AND STREETS.

Spay and neuter is one of the most effective ways to reduce animal suffering over time. This is especially the case in underserved areas. In many of the communities we serve dogs might be deeply loved but allowed to roam freely, and families can rarely afford even the most basic veterinary care. Without access to spay and neuter services, even responsible families can unintentionally contribute to a cycle of overpopulation that overwhelms streets, shelters, and rescue systems.

The reproductive math is stark: a single unspayed dog and all her offspring can have tens of thousands of puppies in less than a decade.

In Bogotá, Colombia our program, led by Dr. Monica Velásquez Millán, brings free, accessible clinics directly into underserved neighborhoods. Each procedure prevents future litters, reduces injury and disease, and eases long-term pressure on shelters and public spaces.

This is prevention in practice: acting early, at scale, and where it matters most.



Dr. Velásquez Millán spaying a cat at a pop-up clinic.



CHANGING HOW COMMUNITIES TREAT ANIMALS



HUMANE EDUCATION IN LIBERIA, AFRICA



Last year, our education programs partnered with 20 public schools in Monrovia, Liberia, reaching 10,914 students. Hundreds of students are engaged through a single school partnership.

Through our partnership with Liberia Animal Welfare & Conservation Society, our educators move between schools across Monrovia, bringing animal welfare lessons to students one classroom at a time. The curriculum is grounded in the Five Freedoms of animal welfare — a globally recognized framework for humane care.

When animal welfare education becomes part of the school day, it normalizes responsible animal care across entire communities. Students carry these ideas home, influencing how animals are treated beyond the classroom.

This approach is designed for scale. It helps establish animal welfare as a shared standard, not a niche concern.

The systemic effect is powerful.

THE FIVE FREEDOMS



Freedom From Hunger and Thirst



Freedom From Discomfort



Freedom From Pain, injury, or Disease



Freedom To Express Normal Behavior



Freedom From Fear and Distress

BUILDING THE PEOPLE WHO CHANGE THEM



ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION IN COLOMBIA AND NICARAGUA

In Latin America, our education program is taught in workshops in small groups and in communities surrounding our partner shelters. Each workshop is dedicated to one of the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare followed by a graduation ceremony.

In 2025, **83 students** returned week after week. They asked questions, brought stories from home and began to connect animal care to responsibility, empathy, and community wellbeing.

Because the groups are small, the interaction is high quality. Students practice what they learn. They discuss real situations in their neighborhoods.

They build trust with our teachers and, over time, this consistency shapes behavior. We see mindset shifts that last beyond the classroom.

This model is intensive, deeply relational, and it works.



STRENGTHENING WHAT ALREADY EXISTS

6
SHELTERS
SUPPORTED

146,760
MEALS FOR
SHELTER ANIMALS



Local shelters are at the center of animal welfare in the communities where we work. They bring deep knowledge of local conditions, trusted relationships with families, and the day-to-day responsibility of responding when animals reach crisis.

But sustaining that work is its own challenge. The infrastructure that supports nonprofits in wealthier countries — institutional grants, corporate giving programs, and a culture of regular charitable donations — largely doesn't exist in Latin America. These shelters run on determination and very little else, absorbing costs that never stop: food, vaccines, spay and neuter procedures, staff time, and medical care.

For most of our partner shelters, Global Strays is their **primary source of operational funding, covering food, veterinary care, salaries, and core costs on a monthly basis**. In 2025, we supported six shelters across Nicaragua and Colombia.

Beyond the basics, every shelter has moments that require something more. This year that meant emergency hay for the horses at *El Mirador de Galán*, Nicaragua; cleaning supplies and supplements for anemic dogs at *Rescate Animal Nicaragua*; a deep freezer for bulk food storage at *Project Ariel*, Nicaragua; rent support at *Fundación Pacto Animal*, Colombia; a life-changing surgery for a dog at *Empaticas*, Colombia; and food for community animals at *Albergue Santandercito Cundinamarca*, Colombia.

When shelters have reliable support, fewer animals reach crisis and caregivers can keep doing the work.



RESCUE, IN CONTEXT

Our partners in Colombia and Nicaragua step in when animals have already reached crisis: injured, sick, abandoned, or at immediate risk. Their work saves lives every day, often with limited space, funding, and staff.

In 2025, our partner shelters rescued **789 animals including cats, dogs, horses, and even a goat.**

But these shelters are not only responding to emergencies. They are also the trusted local partners who help run our spay and neuter clinics, deliver humane education, and support families before problems escalate. Without prevention, shelters are forced into an endless cycle of rescue. With it, they can reduce the number of animals who ever reach crisis in the first place.

**GOING
BEYOND RESCUE
IS POSSIBLE
BECAUSE PEOPLE
CHOOSE TO CARE.**



Thank you to:

- Our donors who give consistently, even when there is no headline.
- Our local partners who run clinics, teach children, and care for animals, moving our work forward.
- The families who show up early with their animals.
- And the communities who trust us enough to work alongside us.

Prevention is quieter than rescue. It doesn't always produce a dramatic story. What it produces instead is stability, fewer animals born into suffering, and more children growing up with a different understanding of responsibility and compassion.

That progress belongs to all of you.

Together, we will continue building programs that reduce suffering over time, strengthen local leadership, and move animal welfare forward in practical, measurable ways.

If you would like to stay connected, share our work, or continue supporting prevention-first programs, you can find us at:



www.globalstrays.org

contact@globalstrays.org

Global Strays ® is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 81-3509140)