

PETSET



# **The problem is solvable.**

## **And it takes all of us.**

Animal homelessness isn't just an animal welfare issue. It's a public health, safety, and quality of life challenge affecting all of us.

[www.petset.org](http://www.petset.org) · [#ForTheAnimals](https://twitter.com/ForTheAnimals)

## A Public Safety Issue Hiding in Plain Sight

Across the U.S., tens of millions of stray animals live outside of homes, and the majority of animals entering shelters arrive as strays. At the same time, shelters and local governments are under increasing strain, with most reporting rising populations and limited capacity. Beyond the suffering of these animals, the costs to our communities are staggering.

This is not a temporary surge, it is the result of systemic gaps in access to care, prevention, and coordination.

## The Cost to Our Communities

# 395,000

### ER visits each year from dog bites

Many more incidents go unreported or are treated outside of hospitals.  
(CDC/WISQARS)

# 43

### Average dog-related deaths per year

Fatalities have increased in recent years, including 81 deaths reported in 2021, underscoring the severity of the issue.  
(CDC/NVSS)

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# \$1B+

## **Annual cost of dog-related injury claims**

These costs impact insurance premiums, local budgets, and communities. (Insurance Information Institute / State Farm)

# 6,000+

## **Postal workers attacked annually**

Texas ranks among the highest in the nation, putting frontline workers at risk. (U.S. Postal Service, 2024)

Stray and unvaccinated animals increase the risk of disease, including rabies, and create more frequent and unpredictable encounters, especially for children, families, and workers in our neighborhoods.

**The result is a growing strain on public health systems, local resources, and community safety.**

***“If we’re serious about building safe, vibrant communities and attracting new talent and investment, we must prioritize solutions to animal homelessness.”***

— Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Founding Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research

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***“Stray animals don’t just create safety concerns—they impact business, public transit, and community well-being.”***

— Nicole Adler, Public Transit Professional

## What's Driving the Problem

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Animal homelessness is the result of systemic gaps in infrastructure, policy, and strategic intervention:



### **Limited access to care**

Many pet owners lack access to affordable spay/neuter, vaccines, and basic services



### **Policy and enforcement challenges**

Inconsistent laws and limited enforcement reduce accountability



### **Fragmented systems**

Shelters, rescues, and municipalities often operate without coordination



### **Lack of awareness**

Limited education around responsible pet ownership perpetuates the cycle



### **Underinvestment in prevention**

Resources are often directed toward reactive solutions instead of long-term impact

**Systems—not symptoms—must be addressed.**

# Our Mission

PetSet unites people, partners, and policymakers to eliminate the suffering of companion animals and strengthen the health and safety of our communities.

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# Our Vision

A future where animal homelessness is prevented at its source, communities are safer, and companion animals are valued as an essential part of society.

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## Our Pillars

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### Promote Policy

Advance legislation and public policy that create long-term, systemic solutions.

### Expand Access to Care

Increase access to essential services like spay/neuter, vaccinations, and microchipping.

### Target Funding

Deploy strategic funding to high-impact programs and community partners.

### Shift Social Norms

Drive behavior change through education and awareness around responsible pet ownership.

### Engage Partners

Align shelters, rescues, municipalities, and organizations to create coordinated solutions.

### Track Results

Use data and research to measure outcomes and guide decision-making.

## A Call to Action

The causes of animal homelessness are preventable. Now is the time for collaboration across sectors—government, business, nonprofits, and the public.

PetSet is working to improve quality of life and reduce suffering by advancing long-term, data-driven solutions. Through partnerships, advocacy, and innovation, we are creating a more humane and effective animal welfare system for Texas and beyond.

## Key Impacts Since Inception

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# \$6.2 million

Provided **\$6.2 million in grants** to 100+ on-the-ground partner organizations since 2007.

# 27,700+

Funded **27,700+ free or low-cost** spay/neuter and wellness services since 2022.

# \$1.7 million

Provided **\$1.7 million in emergency veterinary care** since 2007.

# 15,000+

Transported **more than 15,000 pets** to rescue and shelter partners across the U.S.

# \$20 million+

Raised **more than \$20 million** to advance animal welfare.

# \$13 million

Texas recently allocated **\$13 million in new funding** to expand spay and neuter services statewide, an important step forward supported by ongoing education and awareness efforts championed by PetSet.



**PetSet. Systemic Change.  
Data-Driven Approach.  
Collaborative Solutions.**

