
Annual Report 2020





2020 was a strange and difficult year. It was the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was online education, “social” distancing, copious hand-washing, extra worrying about those we love, and lots of time spent at home. Amid the uncertainty, people around the world recognized that animals and the environment play a critical role in human health. Many of us turned to companion animals and time spent outdoors (separated from other humans) to provide the connection and calm that were lacking in the other aspects of our lives.

Fortunately, thanks to the unwavering commitment of our partners, supporters, and team members, 2020 was also a year of innovation, unexpected opportunities, and reminders of what matters most. A year that could have paralyzed our work instead became a year that strengthened our focus and highlighted the reasons for centering all we do around a One Health approach. As the world saw the devastating impacts of a new zoonosis and watched wildlife enter the streets of cities on lockdown, the urgency behind our message became more convincing – **we must care for animals (wild and domestic) and the environment if we hope to create a healthier future for humans and prevent (or better manage) future pandemics.** At the end, we left 2020 behind with increased confidence in the importance of The GAAP’s mission and in all those who play a role in bringing that mission to life, regardless of the obstacles that arise.

With resilience and gratitude,

Elena, Guillermo, and everyone at The GAAP

Note: Picture taken pre-COVID

Our Focus

OUR **MISSION** IS TO FOSTER A PASSIONATE CONNECTION BETWEEN PEOPLE, ANIMALS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS.



WE **ENVISION** A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020



Research

We are proud to collaborate with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on an international research project on the conservation of migratory aerial insectivores (birds that eat bugs on the fly) on their non-breeding grounds in South America. In North America, aerial insectivores are experiencing steep declines in population (around 32%), and researchers are eager to identify the factor(s) affecting these declines. Thus ECCC and the GAAP created a network with ornithologists in Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay to collaboratively collect data on abundance, distribution and habitat use of barn, bank and cliff swallows in non-reproductive areas.



25

ecoregions surveyed

2,530

point-counts performed across 5 countries

Outdoor Education

Before strict lockdown regulations that lasted the majority of the year, we welcomed a special group of students from SENAME, the fostercare system here in Chile. Each day at the Nature Discovery Center they warmed up, relaxed, noticed more, and honed in on the natural awesomeness all around them. For many of them, this was their first time experiencing the forest that lies just beyond the city limits, and they left searching for more ways to interact with nature in their daily lives.

"All children need nature. Not just the ones whose parents appreciate nature. Not only those children of a certain economic class or culture or set of abilities. Every child."

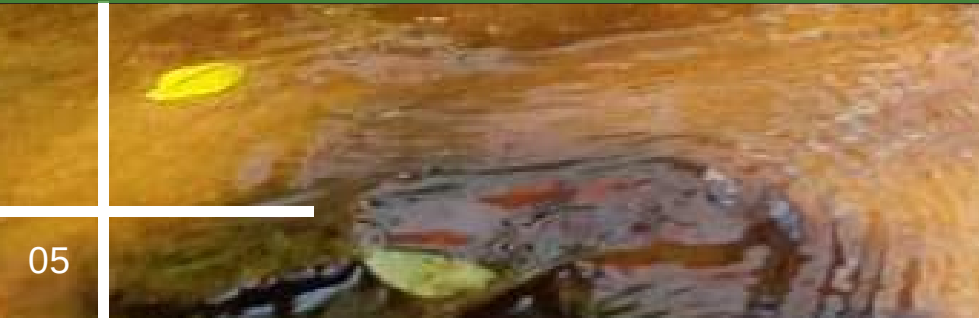
-Richard Louv



4
days in the
Valdivian Forest

9
foster youth
participants

**A lasting
partnership forged!**





Pet Health & Welfare Education

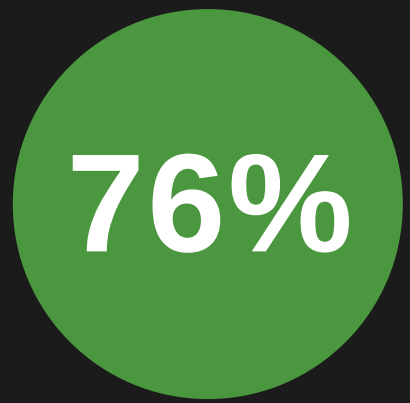
2020 was a year of "make it work" in the world of education, and we far exceeded that expectation! Pivoting our strategy, we created 8 interactive, virtual modules and 8 videos on topics ranging from "How to speak dog", which shares helpful tips for reading animals' body language, to "Animal emergencies", which can help kids know how to react in the most common emergency situations.

ia Jara, Lorenzo

Cristian Saavedra y Violetita (2)



Two benefits of our altered approach:



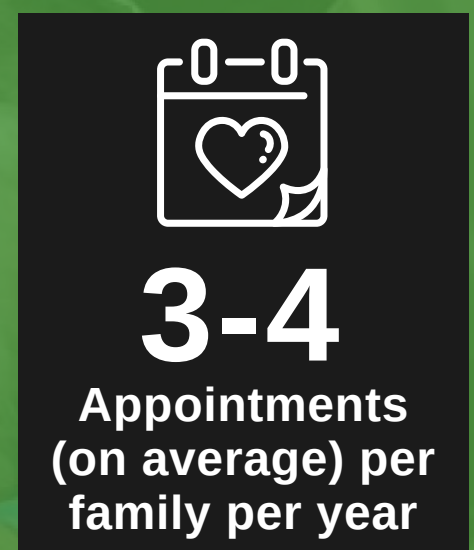
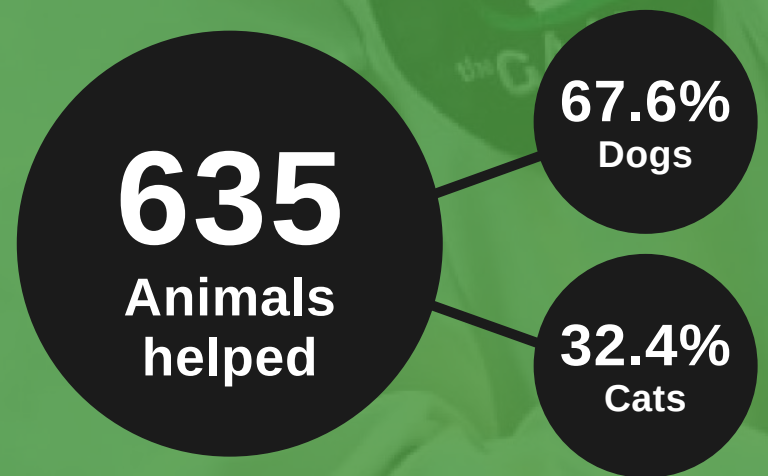
of student participants had a family member engaged with them during the workshops



new, custom videos to accompany 8 fully-online workshop modules
[Check out one video here!](#)

Community Veterinary Clinic

Our clinic's focus this year was on helping people keep the animals they love healthy and safe during a time when a far greater number of community members faced serious economic struggles. We expanded our subsidies, provided food and wellness checks to dogs whose caretakers were in a local homeless shelter, and delivered pet food to our most vulnerable clients. We established and continuously improved safety protocols to protect our team so that we could continue to serve our community during a time when the human-animal bond was more important than ever.





Telemedicine

Thanks to word-of-mouth, news is traveling that our telemedicine program in Todos Santos, Guatemala keeps animals and people healthier! To keep up with increased demand, this year we were fortunate to add a second trainee, José David, to our community animal healthcare worker preparation program. Together, José David and Andrés can reach more animals, provide access to families further from the town's center, and create a larger impact on the overall health of the Todos Santos community.

Despite having to close down services for half of the year due to the pandemic, we still managed to deliver preventive and minor-injury care for animals in need.

107

Dogs treated

20

Dogs sterilized in a locally-run campaign

83

Vaccines administered

Family Sponsorship

For the sixth year, generous sponsors from around the world have invested in the potential of young people in Todos Santos, Guatemala to give them a chance to achieve a better future for themselves and their families. Thanks to these sponsors, Roxana, Roberto, Selena, and Talía are able to continue their education rather than leave school so they can work to support their families. Each of these young people represents a path away from the health complications and injustices that too often accompany life in poverty.



In 2020, despite the additional challenges of remote learning in a country where internet connection is very much still a privilege of the few, our sponsorship participants successfully completed the school year with a collective grade-point average of

83%

Talía, the youngest student in our sponsorship program, completed the primary level of schooling, an achievement approximately

1 in 6

females her age in Guatemala do not attain*

**As of 2018, source: UNESCO Institute of Statistics*



The Mayan village of Todos Santos, Guatemala is remarkably remote. Still, Hurricane Iota had no trouble arriving and leaving its devastating mark in November 2020. Many homes were flooded, and the already limited access points were blocked by intense mudslides creating a dangerous situation for anyone needing to get in or out of the town. Poor Lobito (little wolf) epitomized that sense of being trapped when he literally got buried by a stream of mud as it tore down the mountain. Just a couple years ago, Lobito would have been left without any kind of treatment, as the nearest veterinarian (an hour and a half away by car) could not reach the town given that roads were impassable. Thankfully now, Andrés, our Community Animal Health Worker, has trained extensively and is prepared to both deliver routine care and treat minor injuries for animals in need with the guidance of a dedicated veterinarian in Chile. Because of our telemedicine program, Andrés was able to save Lobito and help him recover from this traumatic situation.

Importantly, Lobito's owners knew to call Andrés because he has worked hard to create a culture of trust and to encourage people to prioritize routine, preventive care for their animals. Had Lobito's caretakers not previously contacted Andrés to vaccinate Lobito, they would not have known who to ask to help save their dog when this tragedy struck.

Impact in Action

Impact in Action



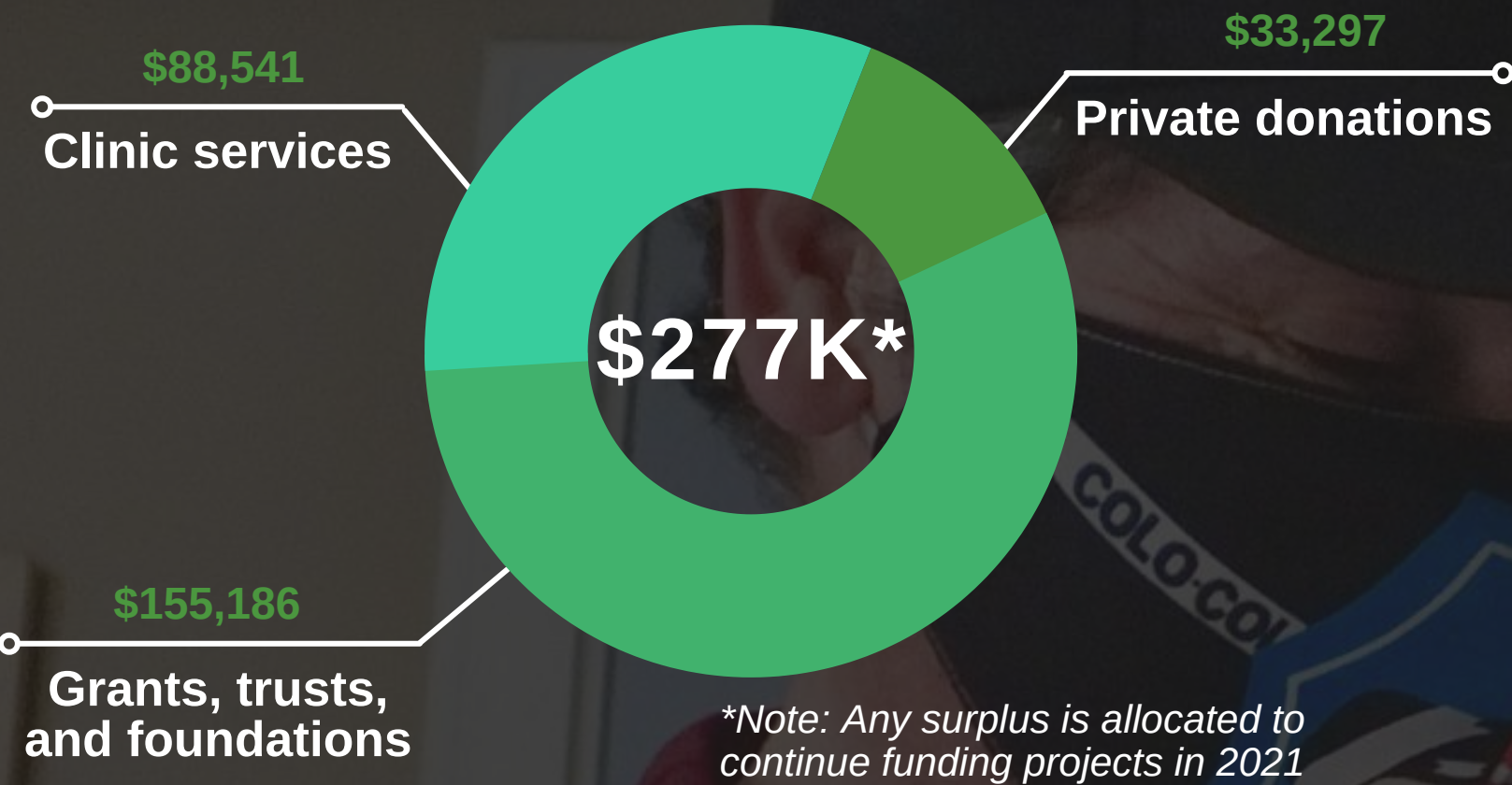
In Chile, "community cats" are quite common. They are often beloved but not always cared for in ways that keep them - and the people and animals around them - safe and healthy. It's another daily One Health concern: domestic animals roaming free have the potential to spread disease and threaten wildlife.

But sometimes people step up in the moment of need, as was the case with this cat, Aragorn. He was a neighborhood cat who was sadly hit by a car. One of the neighbors, Alejandra, found him with two severely broken legs - a completely detached femur as well as a broken paw. Although the cat was not "hers", Alejandra wasted no time in bringing him into our clinic. Given how complicated the breaks were, we offered the best two options - a difficult and expensive surgery (with the hope but no guarantee of a full recovery) OR amputation. Again Alejandra didn't hesitate. She wanted to give Aragorn the best chance at a full recovery, so she opted for the surgery.

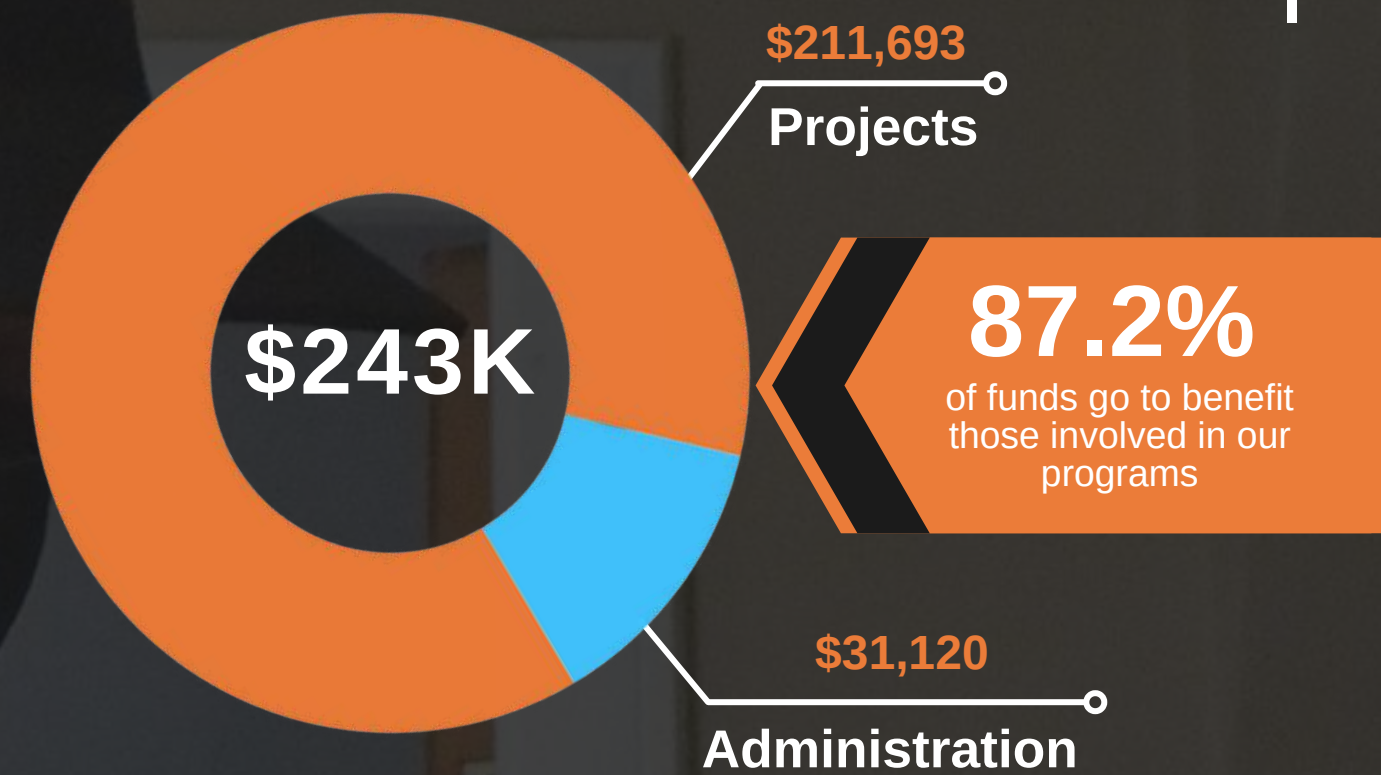
When Alejandra told her neighbors what had happened, they all offered to pitch in to help cover the medical costs. Even Alejandra's young daughter started selling plants to raise money. At a time when people are increasingly isolated, neighbors pulled together to help this cat that belonged to no one, but at the same time, belonged to everyone.

Thankfully, our skilled team was able to pull off the complex surgery, and Aragorn began his process of healing. After several follow-ups with our veterinarians, Alejandra realized what needed to happen to truly give Aragorn the best possible future. She promised to find him a loving home where he could stay indoors. When we checked in about six weeks later, she had done just that. Aragorn had a new home... with Alejandra and her very persistent daughter. They agreed that after all they had been through together helping Aragorn recuperate, he had become part of their family. Now, Aragorn officially has his own bed, toys, and best friend as part of the same family who gave him a second chance to pounce, play, and purr like any other cat.

2020 Total Income



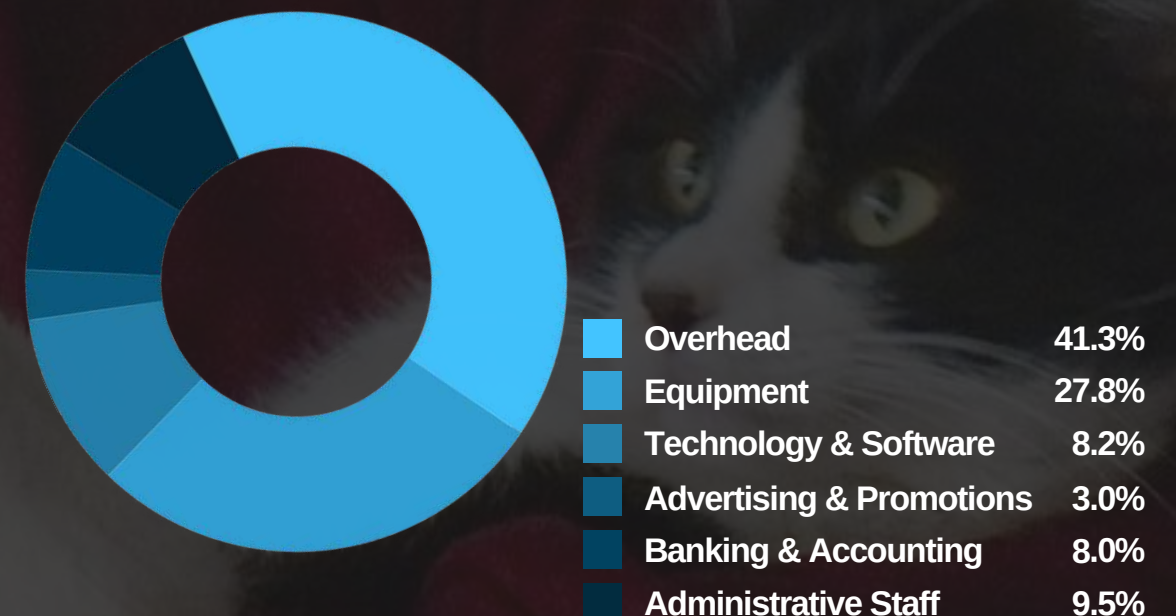
2020 Total Expenses



Breakdown of Expenses by Project



Breakdown of Administrative Expenses



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Through our various projects and ethical work practices, we are contributing to these **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**:



Photo credit: Luis Calapi



THANK YOU

2020 Supporters and Partners

Veterinarians International
Dogs Trust Worldwide
Alicie and Pete Dorsch
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Alice Richie Trust for Animal Welfare
Subsecretaría de Desarrollo Regional y Administrativo de Chile
A Kinder World Foundation

Patty Lechten
Lush Cosmetics North America
Humane Society International
Alice Morgan Wright - Edith Goode Fund

Clínica Veterinaria Santa Rita
JP Pacca
Project V.E.T.S.
Veterinarians Without Borders - Canada

Thyren Garde-Jacobs
Thomas Sardo
Feliza Lopez
Nicola Broughton
Amy Kantor

Susan von Kessel
Patricio Peña
Nancy Holling
Lonnie Kasman
College of Veterinarians of Ontario

Kimberly Jago
Scarlett Magda
Laura-Anne Kutryk
Tom Humber
Maria Bromme
Nancy Ottum and Bruce Wright
Christoph, Maya, and Caspar Schaaps

Bonnie Cavanagh
Ivan Miroshnichenko
David Hull
Katerina Wrangell
Drinda Fluge
Sarah Clark
Los Caminos de la Vida

A very special thanks to all our supporters & volunteers!

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

-Robert Swan

