

B A B Y   K I T T E N   R E S C U E

# 2023 IMPACT REPORT





# 2023 WAS OUR BEST YEAR YET!

2023 was Baby Kitten Rescue's biggest and best year yet!

This year Baby Kitten Rescue really lived up to our mission of being a medical and special needs rescue.

We took in kittens with twisted legs, amputations, atresia ani, blindness, toxoplasmosis, hydrocephalus, broken legs, Swimmer's Syndrome, cerebellar hypoplasia, paralysis, & incontinence.

We took in critical kittens and helped them achieve miraculous recoveries.

Not only do we take in the most vulnerable kittens and rehabilitate them, but we also find them incredible forever homes, even for involved special needs cases like paralysis, incontinence, and hydrocephalus.

We could not do this without the incredible group of people who make up BKR: fosters, volunteers, veterinarians, vet staff, rehab therapists, donors, and supporters.

YOU are the reason we have been able to help all of these kittens. Without your donations, prayers, love, and support none of this would be possible. So **THANK YOU!!!**

Thank you for helping us promote diversity, inclusion, and compassion by loving and celebrating our kittens with disabilities. Thank you for believing in our kittens.

Here's to 2024 being even bigger, better, and more impactful!

**CAROLINE GRACE**

*Founder/Director*

# THE NUMBERS

6  
MAJOR  
SURGERIES

115  
NEONATAL

17  
SPECIAL  
NEEDS

47  
CRITICAL  
CARE

160 INTAKES

38  
SPECIALTY  
VISITS

146  
ADOPTIONS

35  
FOSTERS

## OUR MISSION

We specialize in neonatal, critical care, and special needs kitten rescue. This means we take in the smallest, sickest, most vulnerable and at-risk population. We believe these kittens' lives matter, and that they are worth the extra time, energy, and expense it takes to help them survive and thrive.

We aspire to promote diversity, inclusivity, and compassion. Because of our donors, we are able to say YES to kittens no one else will, we are able to see miraculous recoveries of kittens no one thought would survive, and we are able to show the world that animals with disabilities can live full, rich, and happy lives.

# Spotlight Story: Milly



**Milly came to us at 8 weeks old with severe hydrocephalus and was missing parts of her brain due to the excess cerebrospinal fluid taking up so much space and stunting the growth of her brain. Despite this, Milly was the happiest, most playful, most loving kitten!!**

**We had a custom helmet made to protect Milly's head and brain until she was old enough for brain surgery. Once Milly was 4 months old, she had surgery to place a programmable VP shunt to permanently drain the excess fluid from her brain, so that she could live a long and healthy life. The surgery was a success!!**

**Once Milly fully recovered and once neurologist determined the appropriate setting for her shunt, Milly was adopted by the most incredible family!!**

**Baby Kitten Rescue will cover Milly's emergency and speciality veterinary bills for life, to ensure that she receives the care she needs.**

# Spotlight Story:

## Ephaba

Elphaba came into our care at 8 weeks old after she suffered a traumatic spinal injury that caused her to lose function of her hind legs, bladder, and bowels. X-rays revealed an L3 spinal fracture that was mostly healed, meaning her injury happened weeks before her owners sought help and surrendered her to us.

In addition to her spinal injury, Elphaba also had a severe upper respiratory infection and was incredibly dehydrated and emaciated upon arrival. She was so sick she could barely breathe and could not eat. But with the undying dedication of her foster mom, Elphaba recovered from her URI, started eating, and started on a rehabilitation protocol to try to help her recover nerve function.

Elphaba received weekly physical therapy, acupuncture, acupuncture, e-stim, and home therapy. She did recover some nerve function in her legs, but not enough to walk. But that doesn't hold her back one bit! Elphaba is the happiest, sassiest, silliest, and sweetest cat who does not know that she's any different. She is living a full, happy, and beautiful life with her foster mama!



# Spotlight Story:

## Frankie

Frankie was found all alone, outside, dragging his back legs. He was a tiny 5 week old kitten and we immediately agreed to take him into our care. Our neurologist determined that Frankie was paralyzed and incontinent due to a traumatic spinal injury.

We started Frankie on our intensive rehabilitation protocol to try to help him recover nerve function. Frankie did not recover function of his hind legs or continence, but that didn't matter! He was the happiest, craziest, most loving, most vivacious kitten!

Frankie was adopted by the most incredible family! His family had never cared for a special needs pet, but they were excited to learn. We spent a week training Frankie's adopters how to manually express and care for him. And his adoption was a success!! Frankie is living the most full, rich, and happy life with his adoptive family and cat siblings!



# Spotlight Story:

## Alice

We pulled Alice from the shelter at 6 weeks old when we were notified about a special needs kitten needing rescue by the end of the day. We immediately pulled Alice to save her from her scheduled euthanasia. It was clear that Alice was special from the beginning. She was a wobbly girl who fell over constantly while trying to walk, eat, or play.

Our neurologist determined that Alice had Cerebellar Hypoplasia, meaning part of her brain was underdeveloped. This caused her to have ataxia, or wobbly movements. But that did not hold Alice back at all!

With the help of her foster mom, Alice learned to adapt to her disability by using walls to walk, potty, and play. She learned to widen her stance while eating to stabilize herself. Alice was thriving!

And Alice was adopted by the most wonderful family!



# Spotlight Story: Bamm Bamm

We pulled Bamm Bamm and his sister, Pebbles, from the shelter at just 3 weeks old when we received a plea for rescue for a blind kitten.

When Bamm Bamm arrived, his eyes were completely opaque white, and he was completely blind. But after months of medicated eye drops and multiple specialty vet visits, Bamm Bamm's eyes started to clear up!!

Bamm Bamm could now see!! His eyes will always be a little milky from some permanent scarring, but he runs, climbs, plays, and sees with nearly full vision!

Bamm Bamm & Pebbles were adopted by the most lovely family!





# Spotlight Story: Ben & Jerry



**Ben & Jerry came to us as orphaned 3 week olds. Both of Jerry's back legs were twisted, making it difficult for him to walk. We immediately got Jerry in for x-rays, which confirmed that contracted tendons were causing his legs to be twisted.**

**But after 3 months of daily at-home physical therapy and stretching, we were able to fully correct both hind legs! Jerry is now able to walk correctly on all 4 legs with all paw pads down!!**

**Ben & Jerry were then adopted together!**

# Spotlight Story:

# Poppy

Poppy came to us at 4 weeks old with atresia ani type II, also known as imperforate anus. This means that Poppy was born without an anal opening for stool to exit. This is a dangerous condition that can result in infection and death from stool not being able to exit the body.

Once Poppy was 6 weeks old, she had anoplasty surgery to create an anal opening. The surgery was a success! Poppy made a full recovery!!

Poppy was then adopted with her sister, Lily!



# Spotlight Story:

## Finn

Finn came into our care as a tiny 3 week old orphan, whose whole family had been attacked and killed by another cat. Although Finn survived the attack, he sustained serious injuries. His right front leg femur bone was broken in half.

We were able to get Finn surgery to pin his leg back together at just 3 weeks old and weighing less than 1 pound! He recovered from the surgery remarkably well and continued to latch and drink well from his bottle, even while wearing his tiny cone.

When it was time to remove Finn's pins, the surgeon found that the pins had broken off into his bone. So Finn required another surgery to remove the pins. The surgery was successful, and Finn made a full recovery! He has full function of his leg that was once broken, with no issues. He was the most playful, happy kitten throughout his entire time in foster care. And he was adopted by a staff member from the animal hospital that did his pin removal surgery!



# Spotlight Story:

## Binx

**Binx came into our care as a tiny newborn orphan with his littermates. Around 3 weeks old, we noticed that Binx had Swimmer's Syndrome, a congenital weakness of the legs and hips that causes the legs to splay out to the sides and inhibits walking. We immediately started at-home physical therapy, and after just a few weeks, Binx's legs were fully corrected!**

**Binx was adopted with his sister, Salem!**



# Spotlight Story:

## Rufus



Rufus came to us as a tiny 5 week old kitten who was found all alone, outside, dragging his back legs. His neurology exam revealed that he had sustained a traumatic spinal injury that caused him to become incontinent and paralyzed in his hind legs. We immediately started him on our intensive rehab protocol to see if we could help him recover nerve function.

Slowly, Rufus started regaining nerve function in his hind legs! It started just with tiny twitches, then reflexive nerve function, and now Rufus is consistently taking steps while supported!! He's still not able to walk on his own yet, but his veterinary and rehab team believe he may be able to walk with continued therapy! So we are continuing to work with him and keep him on our intensive rehab protocol to see if we can help him walk.



# THANK YOU



# FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

