



# 2021 IMPACT REPORT



Our goal for 2021 was to power through it and help the kittens who needed us despite all of the extra challenges that were guaranteed by the continuing pandemic. And boy did we succeed!

At the beginning of the season we set a goal to provide care to 250 newborn kittens and nursing moms, and we quickly blew that goal out of the water. **By the end of the year we had helped 403! That's 60% more kittens!**

Out of the 403 kittens and nursing mamas we helped in 2021, we were able to transfer 168 of them to our rescue partners and 36 found homes through our own adoption program which we just started a few months ago.

Sadly, we were unable to save 129 (32%) of the kittens despite all of our efforts, knowledge, experience, and access to medical care. You'll see from the statistics in this report that nearly half of the kittens who needed our help were in very bad shape when they arrived.

In fact...  
218 were under a week old  
136 were critically ill  
11 were critically injured  
27 had been prematurely born  
19 had obvious birth defects

While we weren't able to save those 129 kittens, each and every one of them had a name and left this world knowing love, tenderness, warmth, and a full belly.

We saw many contagious medical issues like panleukopenia, ringworm, calicivirus, and upper respiratory infections -- but our nursery allowed us to quarantine affected animals and easily sanitize to minimize spread.

We helped nearly a dozen kittens with twisted leg syndrome, like our friend Duncan who recently underwent a series of surgeries that will eventually (after lots of physical therapy) allow him to walk upright!

Then there was Toby (pictured with me above) and his siblings who came to us after their back feet had been strangled by their umbilical cords. Blood flow had been restricted for too long to save their feet, but with around-the-clock care we were able to save their lives! I adopted Toby myself and I'm happy to report that he hasn't missed a beat since his amputation.

Thank you for all of your continued support, which allowed us to give a second chance to so many tiny kittens. We wouldn't be able to do this lifesaving work without you.

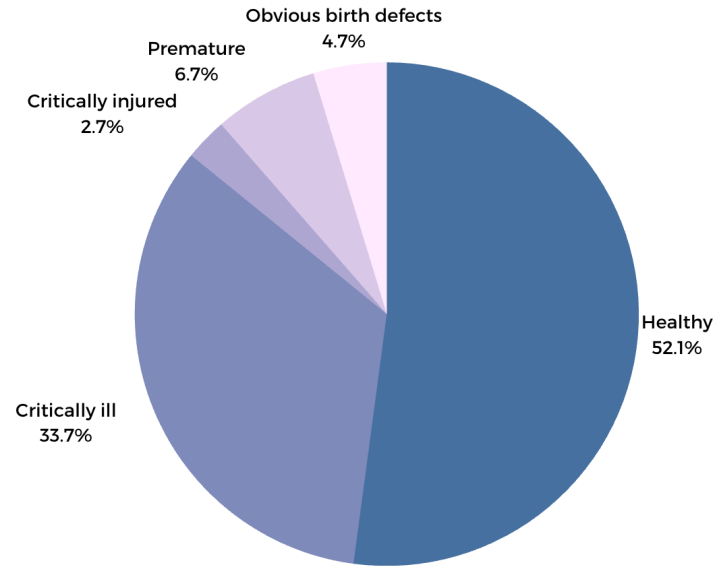


For Esther,

Andee Bingham  
Executive Director

## CONDITION AT INTAKE

Out of the 403 animals we rescued, 210 were healthy when they arrived in our care. 193 were critically ill or injured, were premature, or had obvious birth defects.



Nearly half of the animals we helped in 2021 arrived in our care in critical shape from injuries, illnesses, premature births, or obvious birth defects (cleft palettes, flattened ribcages, etc.) One kitten even had two noses!

In our nursery, which serves as an ICU for the most vulnerable, we have incubators, nebulizers, supplemented oxygen, feeding tubes, fluids, several quarantine rooms, and the ability to provide around-the-clock intensive care.

We also work with eight local veterinary clinics to provide quick and thorough medical care to all who need it, including two emergency hospitals which are available 24 hours a day.



Odin, cleft palette



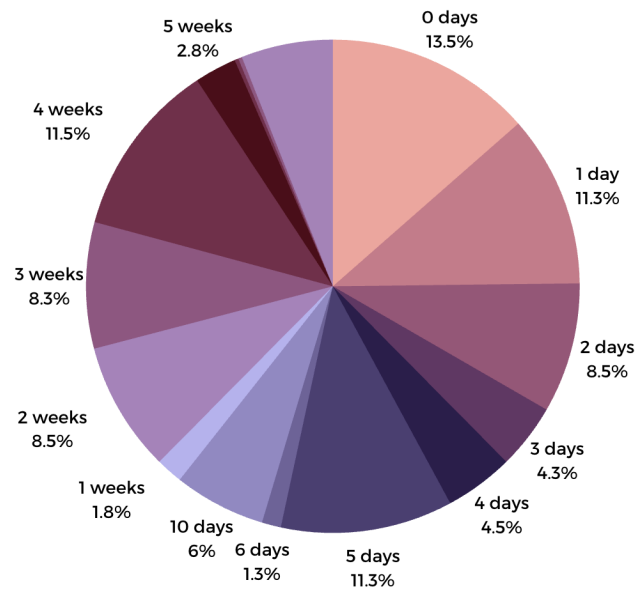
Bravo, botfly in neck



Ruckus, two noses

## AGE AT INTAKE

In 2021, Esther Neonatal Kitten Alliance rescued 379 kittens and 24 nursing moms. 56% of the kittens were less than a week old when they arrived!



Out of the 403 animals we rescued in 2021, 56% of them were a week or less old when they arrived in our care.

54 were born the day they arrived

45 were just one day old

34 were 2 days old

17 were 3 days old

18 were 4 days old

45 were 5 days old

12 were a week old

Except the handful who had great mamas nursing them, each of these kittens was bottle fed every 2 hours (even through the night!) by one of our incredibly selfless foster parents.



Ursa Major



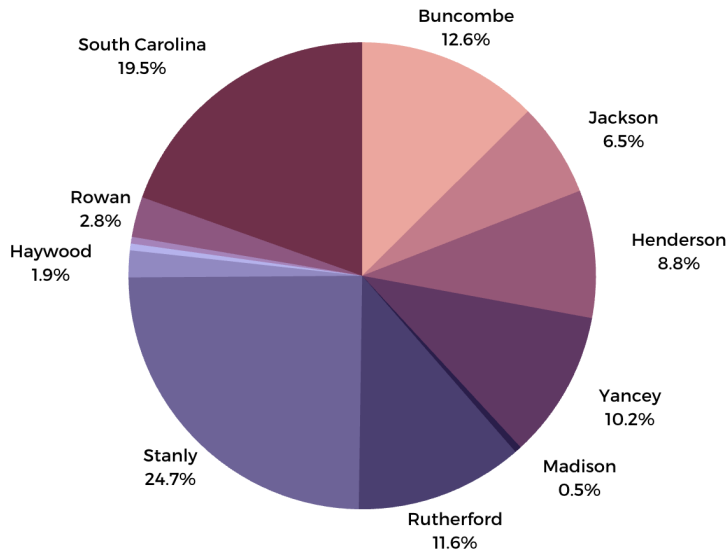
Charlie



Chance

# TRANSFER LOCATIONS

Animals who were transferred to us from rescue partners came from the following areas:



More than half (56%) of the animals we helped in 2021 were transferred to us by one of our rescue partners.

We partner with over a dozen municipal shelters and rescue organizations throughout North Carolina and South Carolina to provide support and a safety net for newborn kittens.

87% of the kittens who were transferred to us from partners came from rural counties that have very few resources to care for such fragile kittens.

The system is working!



Yo-Yo, Yancey County



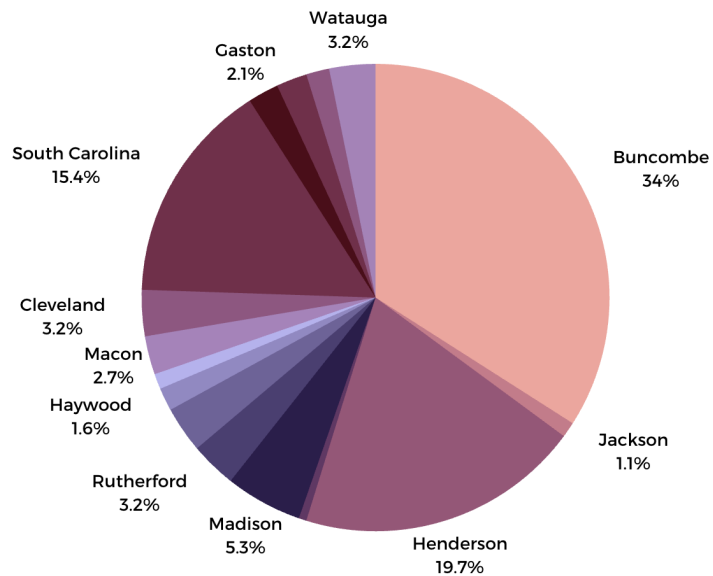
Pepper, Rowan County



Frannie, Henderson County

# SURRENDER LOCATIONS

Animals who came to us directly from the community came from the following areas:



43% of the animals we cared for in 2021 came to us directly from the community.

2/3 of them came from very rural areas that have few resources for newborn kittens. We're glad to be a safe haven for these tiny kittens who may not have gotten the care they needed otherwise.

We are also working with rescues and municipal shelters in many of these counties to train their staff, foster parents, and volunteers to care for future kittens.



Stitches, South Carolina



Evander, Buncombe County



Rylee, Caldwell County

# Looking ahead to 2022...

We've got BIG PLANS this year to grow our programs to help more kittens like Cedric here!

- 1** We're **working to build our team of fosters and volunteers** -- and to keep giving them more and more learning opportunities so they'll be best prepared to help the most vulnerable kittens.
- 2** Starting this year (with the hire of someone who is studying to be a vet tech!) we will be able to **do a lot more of our medical care in house**, including fecal exams, disease testing, and basic blood work!
- 3** We aren't able to divulge details about this quite yet, but this year we will have an opportunity to **adopt out a lot of our kittens from a busy off-site location**. This will help us move animals into their forever homes quicker PLUS give us more visibility in the community.
- 4** Here's the one we're MOST excited about -- In the spring we will be launching a **capital campaign to purchase our beloved nursery!** This will help ensure that tiny kittens will always get the chances they deserve to grow big and strong.





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