



## **Spokane Humane Society Awarded \$13K Orphan Kitten Club Grant**

### ***Innovation grant to fund Neonatal Kitten Foster Program expansion at Spokane Humane Society***

**Spokane, WA | April 28, 2026**— Spokane Humane Society (SHS), a nonprofit dedicated to animal welfare since 1897, has been awarded a \$13,787.13 innovation grant from [Orphan Kitten Club](#) (OKC), a national nonprofit organization with a mission to innovate pediatric care and advance protections for neonatal kittens in shelters. The grant will support the expansion of Spokane Humane Society's Neonatal Foster Kitten Program by funding essential supplies, training, and community outreach.

Grant funding will provide incubators and neonatal kitten care kits, equipping foster volunteers with essential supplies such as formula, bottles, scales, thermometers, heating pads, and sanitation materials. In addition, OKC supplied kitten milk replacer, ensuring fosters have immediate access to critical nutrition for the most vulnerable kittens in care.

The program includes specialized, hands-on training led by SHS's foster and veterinary teams. As part of this effort, SHS has already hosted two public "Bottle Baby Bootcamps" at its PetSmart Charities Everyday Adoption Center, inviting community members to learn about neonatal kitten care and explore becoming foster volunteers. An experienced neonatal foster provided live demonstrations with kittens in their care, including proper feeding techniques and use of incubators. Spokane Humane Society's foster and volunteer coordinators, along with veterinary staff, were also on-site to guide attendees and answer questions.

With OKC's support, Spokane Humane Society aims to foster 100 neonatal kittens (zero to eight weeks old) in 2026, with a targeted 90% live-release rate—well above the national average of 40–70% for this vulnerable population. Beyond this, the organization is supporting approximately 280 older kittens through its foster program, bringing the total number of kittens served to 380 this year.

This investment is strengthening organizational capacity, reducing strain on staff and volunteers, and creating a sustainable, community-based foster network capable of providing consistent, high-quality care for neonatal kittens across the region, including those transferred from under-resourced areas of north-central Washington.

"Kittens are among the most fragile animals we see, and without immediate, specialized care, many simply won't survive," said Kristi Soto, Director of Marketing & Development at Spokane Humane Society. "This support allows us to build a solid and dedicated program that not only saves lives today, but creates the structure and community needed to care for hundreds more in the years ahead."

Neonatal kittens are the most euthanized feline population in animal shelters in the United States, accounting for at least half of feline deaths. The specialized skills, supplies, veterinary expertise, and overnight care they require make them uniquely difficult to care for on-site in an animal shelter. For this reason, shelters and rescues rely heavily on volunteer foster parents to assist with the care of this vulnerable population.

Led by a panel of experts in animal welfare, veterinary medicine, and kitten wellbeing, the Orphan Kitten Club Mightycat program strategically selects partners based on their potential to create meaningful new impact for neonatal kittens. Following a bi-annual application period, the advisory panel thoughtfully allocates donor funds to partner programs that have proposed an executable and measurable plan to lower euthanasia rates, increase lifesaving capacity, enhance quality of care and/or contribute to groundbreaking research.

“Our Mightycat partners are shelters and foster-based rescues that are truly aligned with our mission to increase lifesaving programs for kittens under eight weeks old,” said Jackie Noble, Executive Director, Orphan Kitten Club. “We’re proud to partner with Spokane Humane Society to move the needle for neonatal kittens.”

To learn how to join SHS’s foster team and make a lifesaving difference, email [foster@spokanehumanesociety.org](mailto:foster@spokanehumanesociety.org).

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### **About Spokane Humane Society**

Spokane Humane Society is the oldest local non-profit dedicated to animal welfare in Spokane, with a 128-year legacy of compassion. As a 501(c)(3) private, non-profit organization, they’ve been serving the public since 1897 by providing care, shelter, and loving homes for homeless, neglected, and unwanted animals in the greater Spokane area. Spokane Humane Society receives zero government funding and relies entirely on community support to sustain its mission. In addition to adoptions, they offer veterinary clinical services to low-income community members, helping keep pets healthy and with their families.

Follow Spokane Humane Society on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Visit us at [spokanehumanesociety.org](http://spokanehumanesociety.org).

### **About Orphan Kitten Club**

Orphan Kitten Club (OKC) is the nation’s leading charitable organization solely dedicated to advancing kitten welfare. A 100 percent donor-funded 501(c)3 organization, Orphan Kitten Club is led by a team of experts in animal welfare, veterinary medicine, and kitten wellbeing who thoughtfully identify [Mightycat](#) shelter partners and allocate donor funds to kitten programs, emergency veterinary care, and ethical research programs that create meaningful change and move the needle for neonatal kittens.

Neonatal kittens—those under eight weeks old—are the most vulnerable animals entering shelters, experiencing the highest mortality rates of any population. OKC works to make kitten lifesaving the standard in every community through a strategic four pillar approach: administering the first and only national grant program focused solely on neonatal kitten care and lifesaving; mentoring shelter leaders in implementing data-driven best practices; advancing veterinary medicine through ethical pediatric research; and running a specialized kitten nursery that provides around-the-clock expert care for neonates and kittens with complex medical needs.

Founded in 2016 by Hannah “[Kitten Lady](#)” Shaw, Orphan Kitten Club has awarded more than \$4 million in transformative kitten-focused grants to save the lives of more than 250 thousand kittens in over 150 communities.

To become a club member—a monthly supporter of Orphan Kitten Club—visit [donate.orphankittenclub.org/join](http://donate.orphankittenclub.org/join).

Follow us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#), or visit us at [orphankittenclub.org](http://orphankittenclub.org).

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