



Transformative & Life-Giving

VETERAN COMPANION **ANIMAL SERVICES** 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Veteran Companion Animal Services
info@vcascharity.org
70 South Sandusky Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(614) 918-8221

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

 **SPARK
AWARDS**
2021 WINNER OH





Dear VCAS Champions,

As we reflect on the past year, we are so grateful for your support that has restored the lives of veterans and rescue dogs throughout central Ohio. The dedication of our board, staff, volunteers, and donors allowed us to not only sustain but thrive, during unprecedented times. Veteran Companion Animal Services had its most successful year to date in providing services to veterans and rescue dogs in our community. Committed to our mission of enriching the lives of veterans, military families, and dogs through the many benefits of the human-animal bond, 2021 truly changed lives.

We are proud of what we accomplished together:

- Changing the lives of more veterans and rescue dogs than ever before
- Development of the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan that will expand services and deliver life-change to more veterans waiting for relief
- Hosting our first ever I'm with Abe Gala
- The return of in-person alumni events
- BBB Accredited Charity, 2021 BBB Spark Award Recipient, and GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency

We hope that you'll enjoy this report and learn more about our work, our people, as well as the amazing veterans and rescue dogs we serve.

Thank you for being with us on this life-giving journey,

Heather Lane, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Founder & CEO Emeritus

Bryan Pritikin, JD
U.S. Army 82nd Airborne
Board Chair



VETERAN COMPANION **ANIMAL SERVICES**

Mission

To enrich the lives of veterans, military families and dogs through the many benefits of the human-animal bond.

Vision

A World Where the Lives of Veterans and Rescue Dogs Are Restored Through Mutual Healing.

Core Values

- Transformation
- Transparency
- Excellence
- Stability
- Service



Veteran Companion Animal Services

info@vcascharity.org
70 South Sandusky Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(614) 918-8221

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

 **SPARK
AWARDS**
2021 WINNER OH



2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bryan Pritikin, J.D.

Carlile Patchen & Murphy Attorneys
at Law
U.S. Army 82nd Airborne
Board Chair

Debi Johnson

Huntington Bank
Vice Chair

Mark Kline, CPA

Retired
Board Treasurer

Lori Bunker

Buckeye Management Company
Board Secretary

Gary Coffield

Retired
Fundraising Committee Chair

Michael Carrell

National Veterans Leadership Foundation
U.S. Air Force, Colonel (Ret)

Kevin Gadd

Apprenti
U.S. Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant (Ret)

Krista La Perle, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company

Gary Mohler

Worthington Industries

Anne Petit

Ohio Division of Real Estate &
Professional Licensing

Nasandra Wright, MPH, RS

Ohio State University

"Everyone at VCAS is fully focused on and committed to serving our incredible veterans and the rescue dogs that rescue them. It is an honor to serve on the board and I'm so privileged to be a part of making such life-changing relief possible for our American Heroes and their four-legged friends."

– Anne Petit
VCAS Board Member





2022 STAFF AND KEY VOLUNTEERS

Staff & Key Volunteers

**Heather Lane, DVM, MPH,
DACVPM**

Founder & CEO Emeritus

Pam Blosser

Administrative Coordinator

Lisa Frank

Program Coordinator

Kym Ashford

Volunteer and Events
Coordinator

Tom Lennon, CAPT USN (Ret)

Patriot Affairs and Outreach
Coordinator

Robin Lennon

I'm With Abe Club Lead

Veteran Companion Animal Services

info@vcascharity.org
70 South Sandusky Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(614) 918-8221

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

 **SPARK
AWARDS**
2021 WINNER OH



RESCUING DOGS TO RESCUE VETERANS

Overall 2021 Program Highlights

VCAS fulfills its mission by placing rescue dogs with veterans whose lives can be changed, even saved, by the physical, mental and emotional benefits that dogs provide. The VCAS team gets to know each veteran and works with our shelter partners to find them their perfect dog. Each veteran and dog are then supplied with all the dog food, veterinary care and supplies that they need for a full year. VCAS also hosts dog training classes for veterans that already own dogs and an Alumni Program for veterans and their families to continue building camaraderie and support. More information about VCAS programs can be found at VCAScharity.org.

2021 was a year of growth and sustainability for our programs. More rescue dogs and veterans were served than ever before and key program staff positions were created to allow the capacity needed to ensure the quality and growth of our services.



**1400 lbs of dog food
provided**



\$6,870 vet care provided



**30 hours of training
classes, 18 dogs trained
in 2021**



**18 new veterans
and dogs served
(6 placements, 12 training)**

Since the program launch in 2018,
over 50 veterans have been served (a
mix of training and 14 placements) –
more than 100 veterans and dogs!

TESTIMONIALS



Navy Veteran Heather Langham & Bosch

"If he senses that I'm starting to get a little anxious, he will just look at me and put both his paws on me and he wants me to pick him up and just kind of carry him around like a baby...it calms me down a lot"



Navy Veteran Robert Haas & Alice

"She'll be right there with me. So, I can't imagine life without a dog. She's not a member of my family — we're members of her family"



Army Veteran Eddie Broom & Marley

"Now I have somebody who keeps me in check. She gives me a purpose and direction"

TESTIMONIALS

Navy Veteran Andrew Sherman & Trike

"I talk to people, I'm happy, I get up in the morning, we go to the dog park"



Marine Corps Veteran John Grimm & Basil

"Basil is my best friend. If I need to break down or do whatever, he's there for me. He'll come over, put his snout in my palm for me just to know I'm not alone. I guess you could say VCAS actually saved my life."



Veteran Companion Animal Services

info@vcascharity.org
70 South Sandusky Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(614) 918-8221

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

 **SPARK
AWARDS**
2021 WINNER OH



FOUNDING STORY



Dr. Heather Lane started VCAS after seeing many instances where veterans' lives were greatly impacted by their pets. Dr. Lane had several family members who served and all of them had a dog, or two, that made every day better. While working at veterinary clinics, many veteran clients would open up about just how much their dog meant to them. Oftentimes, spouses would secretly share that if not for the dog, their significant other wouldn't be here. Through veterinary school, Dr. Lane became passionate about One Health, the concept that human, animal, and environmental health are all related, and the benefits of the human-animal bond. When a tragedy occurred with a close family member struggling with mental health, Dr. Lane felt God's calling to work in the space of improving human lives through animals. With a heart for veterans and a solid belief in the healing power of dogs, Dr. Lane, with the support of her husband, Chris Macisco, began the process of starting Veteran Companion Animal Services.

Veteran Companion Animal Services

info@vcascharity.org
70 South Sandusky Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(614) 918-8221

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

 **SPARK
AWARDS**
2021 WINNER OH

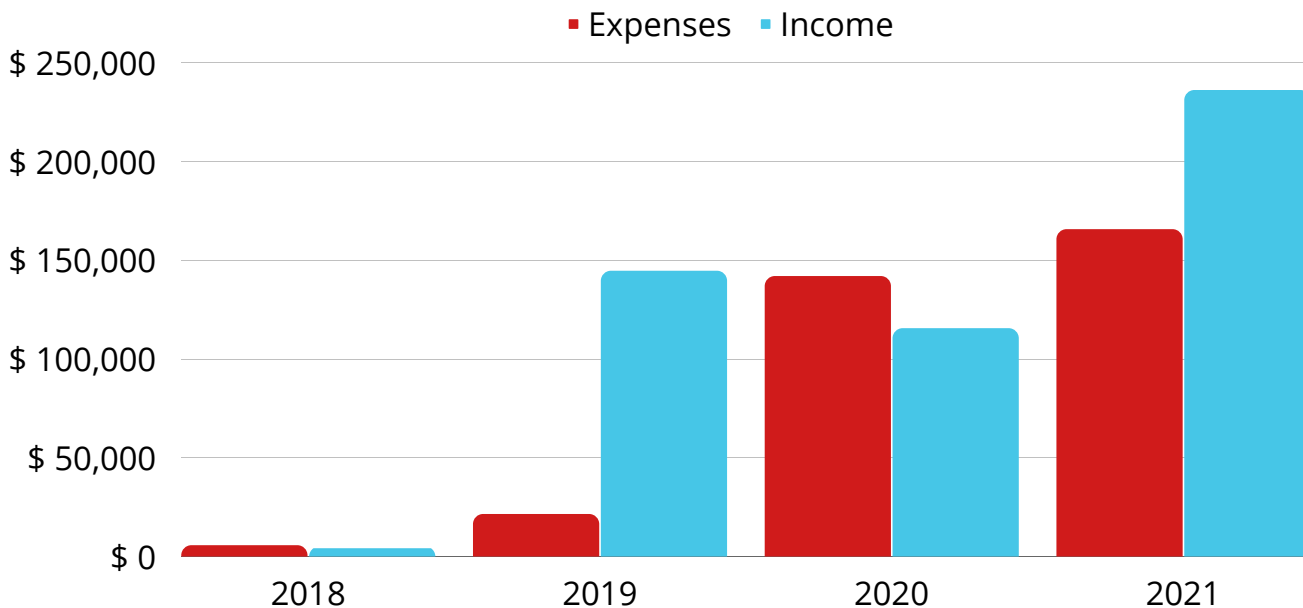


FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses 2018-2021

Thanks to many amazing Champions, VCAS has had tremendous growth over the past year. With a focus on sustainability and the quality of services provided, VCAS doubled its revenue from 2020 to 2021. This growth translates to an impact on the lives of veterans and rescue dogs and we are excited to share what's now being made possible in our "What's next" section of this report.

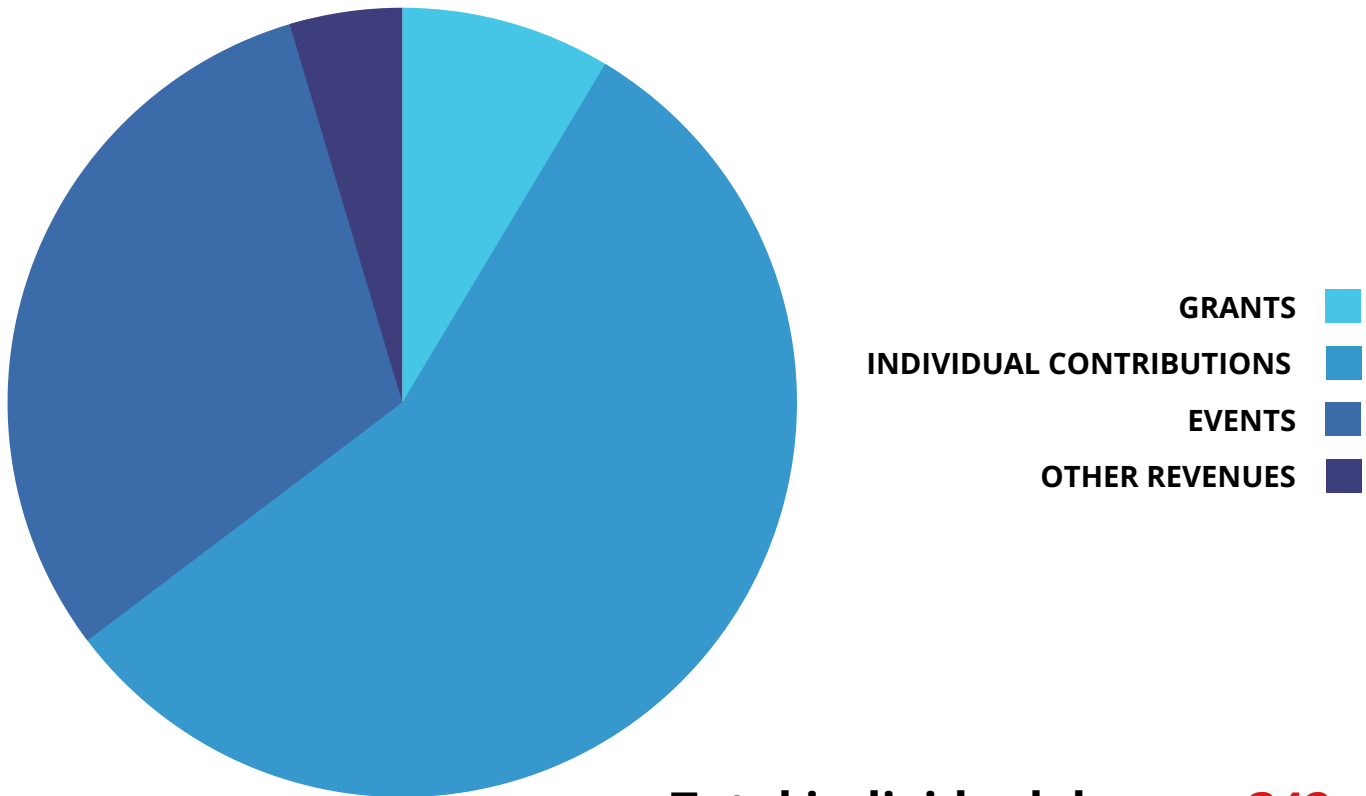
Year	Expenses	Income
2018	\$ 5,547	\$ 4,070
2019	\$ 21,526	\$ 144,503
2020	\$ 141,823	\$ 115,464
2021	\$ 165,615	\$ 236,012



**2020 was a year of growth and investment. As 2019 supplied needed funds, larger investments to ensure growth and sustainably were undertaken in 2020*

FINANCIAL REPORT - INCOME

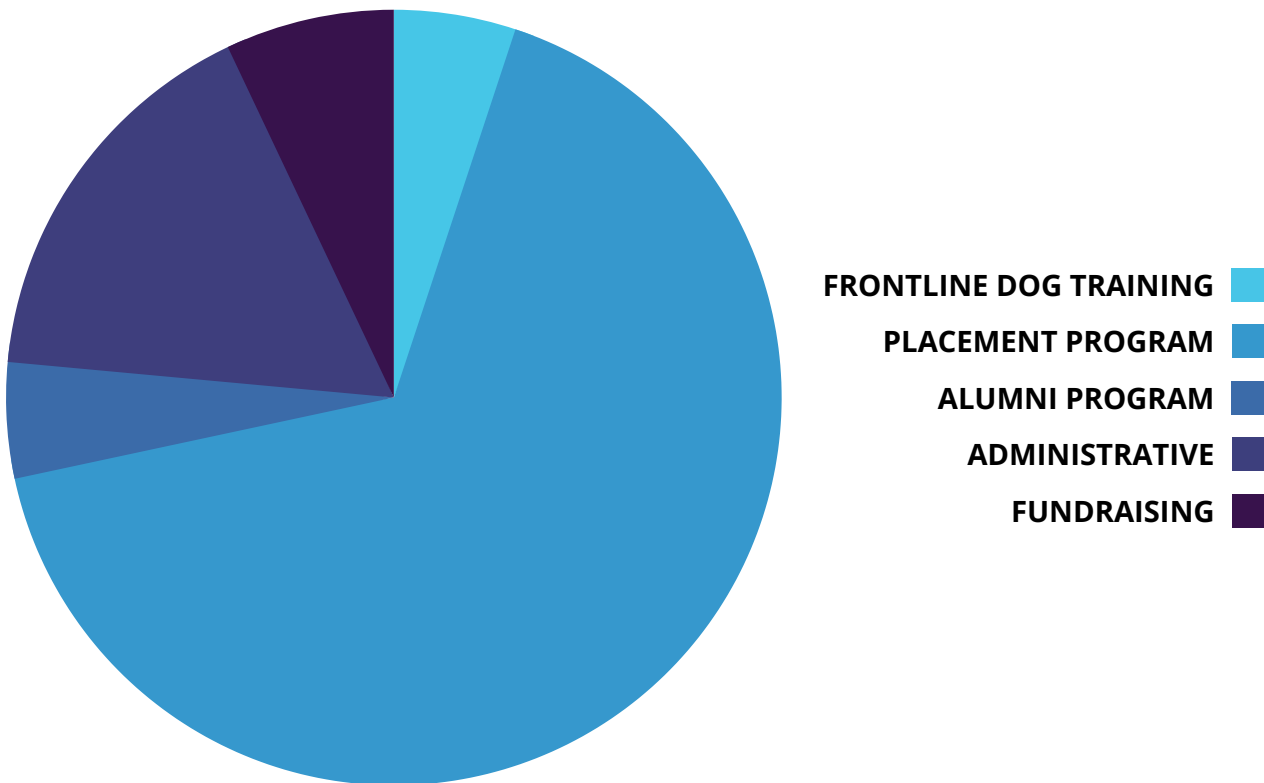
GRANTS	\$ 21,000
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 137,057
EVENTS	\$ 75,000
OTHER REVENUES	\$ 11,250
TOTAL INCOME:	\$ 244,307



Total individual donors: 342
Total organization donors: 49

FINANCIAL REPORT - EXPENSES

FRONTLINE DOG TRAINING	\$ 8,240
PLACEMENT PROGRAM	\$ 110,354
ALUMNI PROGRAM	\$ 8,000
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 27,346
FUNDRAISING	\$ 11,675
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 165,615



CHAMPION SPOTLIGHTS

Veteran Companion Animal Services is blessed to have many amazing Champions that give their time, talent and treasure to make the mission possible. Whether fostering, helping with outreach, sponsoring events or giving, each and every Champion plays an important and critical role in changing the lives of veterans and rescue dogs. We'd like to give a huge thank you to all of our Champions!

We are excited to spotlight two of the many Champions that make VCAS possible...

Mary Beth Wozniak

Mary Beth Wozniak has been supporting VCAS over the past three years. Whether supporting a campaign, being a gala sponsor or a member of the I'm With Abe Club, Mary Beth has a true passion for healing and restoring lives.



"I am always looking for a win-win where one action can result in multiple good outcomes. An impactful win-win is giving back to a veteran and saving the life of a dog."

- Mary Beth Wozniak

Tonya & Don Bauman

Tonya and Don Bauman have been the link between many amazing veterans and their rescue dogs. The Bauman's have fostered multiple dogs, providing them with a loving home as they transition out of the shelter and valuable insight for placement with their veterans. In addition to fostering, the Bauman's often volunteer at training classes and support our annual golf outing, Pars for Patriots.



"The company of a good dog has always been important to us and our family. We instantly knew we wanted to get involved with VCAS when we learned their mission was to match a dog needing a home with a military veteran in need of a loving companion."

- Tonya & Don Baumann

Veteran Companion Animal Services

info@vcascharity.org
70 South Sandusky Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(614) 918-8221

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

 **SPARK
AWARDS**
2021 WINNER OH



VOLUNTEERING

As always, the incredible support of our volunteers was a critical part of everything we accomplished in 2021. Throughout a year of changing guidelines and restrictions, our dedicated volunteers adapted and remained focused on caring for the veterans and rescue dogs. A big thank you to everyone that volunteered their time to change the lives of veterans and rescue dogs!

VCAS volunteers make the mission possible in a variety of ways:

- Dog training
- Outreach & events
- Fostering
- Fundraising
- Sharing the mission
- Praying
- Rescue dog placements
- Alumni Program

100+

volunteers contributed their time mission.

5,743

total hours were volunteered.



OUR PARTNERS

VCAS could not complete its mission without our amazing partners! VCAS is grateful for the partnerships that pour their time, talent, and treasure into creating life-changing matches for veterans and rescue dogs.

Gigi's – The incredible team at Gigi's works with VCAS to find, assess and support rescue dogs for our American heroes. Gigi's is a state-of-the-art shelter that provides homeless dogs access to high-quality shelter, veterinary, behavior, and adoption services - gigis.org

Humane Society of Delaware County- HSDC has supported VCAS since our first dog placement in 2018! Their incredible team also works to find, assess and support rescue dogs for our American heroes. The Humane Society of Delaware County strives to ensure the best possible treatment, care, and placement of animals in need - hsdcoho.org

Nick Rozanski Memorial Foundation – The Nick Rozanski Memorial Foundation has been a key partner to the VCAS mission. In 2020, the NRMF was the Founding Sponsor of the I'm With Abe Club and has since supported the mission and club each year at the annual I'm With Abe Gala. We encourage you to take some time to learn about Nick's incredible life and service - rozanskimemorial.com



HUMANE SOCIETY
OF DELAWARE COUNTY



OUR PARTNERS

Hilliard VFW Post 4931 – The Hilliard VFW Post has been partnering with VCAS for several years now. Providing a wonderful space for our Frontline Training Classes, this partners plays an essential role in helping veterans work with and learn how to communicate with their dogs.

Delaware VFW Post 3297 – We were excited to have the Delaware VFW as a new partner in 2021. Located right down the road from the VCAS office, the Delaware VFW has also been an amazing partner, providing space for our Frontline Training Classes, particularly for those veterans who live in the northern region of central Ohio.



OUTREACH

2021 was a busy year with a variety of outreach events. Whether presenting at schools, attending community events, speaking to groups or sharing our mission for the first time on national news, 2021 provided many opportunities to share the mission.

- TV & Newspaper articles
- Presentations
- Wag Fest
- First Fridays/Open House



Veteran Companion Animal Services
info@vcascharity.org
70 South Sandusky Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(614) 918-8221

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

SPARK
BBB AWARDS
2021 WINNER



EVENTS

After a year of COVID social distancing in 2020, it was exciting to get out again and host events throughout 2021. VCAS had many new events starting in 2021 that will be annual opportunities to get involved each year.

1st Annual I'm With Abe Gala – VCAS held the first ever I'm With Abe Gala at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum on Armed Forces Day, May 15th. The I'm With Abe Club launched in 2020 to create a legacy for an incredible dog, Abraham Lincoln. It was a powerful evening of sharing the mission, work, and impact rescue dogs have on the lives of veterans. We encourage you to learn more about Abe's incredible story and the I'm With Abe Club that continues his legacy at imwithabe.org.

1st Annual Poker Run – VCAS held its first ever Poker Run on May 22nd. This fun-and-new event was led by VCAS Board Member Lori Bunker. Over 100 bikers from throughout Ohio joined together to raise money for veterans and rescue dogs. Bikers visited several stops in the Northwest, central Ohio region and finished the day off at the Delaware American Legion.

2nd Annual Pars for Patriots – VCAS held its second Annual Pars for Patriots Golf outing on September 12 at the Safari Golf Club. This annual event was led by VCAS Board Member Gary Coffield. Around 100 golfers showed their support for our amazing veterans and rescue dogs. The day was filled with golf, food, awards, and a hearty silent auction.



DR. LANE'S TRANSITION AND EXCITEMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF VCAS

Near the end of 2021, VCAS Founder and President/CEO, Dr. Heather Lane, shared with the board that she would be transitioning into a "Founder's Role" in 2022. Dr. Lane founded VCAS in 2013 and has been successfully building, leading and growing this mission over the past 9 years.

Dr. Lane is excited to welcome her successor, being able to present the new President/CEO with the organization in its best and most impactful condition ever.

"It was Heather's vision that drove VCAS into existence and her enthusiasm for helping veterans and dogs that made VCAS successful. Heather's dedication, tireless work, and commitment allowed for VCAS' dramatic expansion from a single-person operation to a charity with a 12-member Board that will place 12 dogs with veterans in need this year. VCAS' Board applauds Heather's work over the last nine years and recognizes the enormous impact she's had not only on VCAS but countless veterans and their families in our community. Heather's work as President improved everyone's lives around her and she will be difficult to replace. VCAS thanks Heather for her service and wishes her the best of luck in her future endeavors." said Board Chairperson Bryan Pritikin.

Dr. Lane will continue to play a key role in the story of VCAS, taking on a "Founder's Role" where she can best support where her talents are needed most.

"Although this was a big decision, guided by a lot of thought and prayer, I am so excited to confidently move VCAS forward in this way; it is the right time for VCAS to welcome a new President/CEO. I have been blessed to have been called to this work and I am excited to passionately serve in a new capacity. VCAS truly has the most amazing Champions, a strong Board and the best volunteers in the world- I can't wait to see where VCAS goes in the coming years!" – Dr. Lane



WHAT'S AHEAD

In September of 2021, the VCAS board, key volunteers, and staff met to create the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. The plan lays out goals and objectives for the years ahead that will help further the mission and ultimately serve more veterans than ever before.

Key highlights from the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan include:

Increasing the number of rescue dog placements locally in central Ohio

Each year VCAS plans to increase the number of rescue dogs placed with veterans right here in central Ohio.

Growing the VCAS Alumni Program

VCAS plans to grow and expand the Alumni Program so that more veterans can get connected with continued camaraderie and support.

New VCAS chapter

VCAS will begin researching locations and pilot a second regional chapter! This will allow veterans that could not previously find relief through VCAS to have this opportunity.

Building an official VCAS home

VCAS will begin the early stages of a capital campaign so that VCAS can find a permanent home. The VCAS office has been at the Ohio Wesleyan University Entrepreneurial center but is outgrowing the space. A new facility will allow for all supplies, staff and programs to run from one location, helping in a multitude of ways.



Our generous supporters make an impact every day in the lives of veterans and rescue dogs. We can't continue this lifesaving work without you.



Veteran Companion Animal Services

**70 S. Sandusky St.
Delaware, OH 43015**

614-918-8221

www.vcascharity.org

Veteran Companion Animal Services is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization



Veteran Companion Animal Services

info@vcascharity.org
70 South Sandusky Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015
(614) 918-8221