

## House Rules

While you are here, you are a guest in these animals' homes. Please be respectful of them and act as you would expect a visitor in your own home to do. Here are a few reminders to get you started.

- 🐾 If you are younger than 18 years old, you must be with an adult to visit the dog and cat rooms.
- 🐾 Please walk. Running, skipping, and using roller shoes can scare the animals and may get you or the animals hurt. The animals aren't going anywhere, so there is no need to rush.
- 🐾 Please use your inside voice. Loud noises can scare the animals.
- 🐾 Knocking on the windows can scare the animals. Looking is encouraged, but keep staring to a minimum. How would you feel if someone came up to your front window and gawked at you?
- 🐾 We limit the number of cats per room, so it's only fair to also limit the number of humans per room. If there are already 5 people in a cat room, please wait outside for your turn. The cats like visitors, but only a few at a time.

## Speak Their Language

Animals speak a different language than we do. Much like learning a foreign language in school, they will give you signals, but you may not understand the meaning. Here's a crash course in speaking "pet".

If an animal does any of the following, he is asking you to leave him alone.

- 🐾 Hissing
- 🐾 Puffing up his fur
- 🐾 Running away
- 🐾 Showing his teeth
- 🐾 Tucking his tail between his legs
- 🐾 Laying his ears flat on his head

A handshake is an appropriate greeting for a new human friend, but a pet won't appreciate that. Here's how to meet an animal at the shelter.

- 🐾 Let them come to you.
- 🐾 Talk quietly.
- 🐾 Pet them gently or pick up a toy.
- 🐾 Do not pick them up.
- 🐾 Do not reach over a dog's head. Instead, hold your hand out flat and first reach underneath toward a dog's chin.

## History Lesson

Welcome! Since 1967, the SPCA of Wake County has served our community by providing innovative programming, compassionate care, and workable solutions for people and pets in need. The SPCA of Wake County is a private, non-profit organization and does not receive any local, state or federal tax dollars, nor do we receive funding from any national animal welfare organizations, such as the ASPCA. We are the largest privately-funded animal welfare organization in Wake and surrounding counties.

Our original building, the Holding Center, was built in 1971 and is still being used as our intake facility. We have staff and volunteers who work at the Holding Center to begin the journey to a new home for all the animals you see here. We built the Curtis Dail Pet Adoption Center in 2003 and opened for adoptions in early 2004. Animals come in to the Holding Center and are moved to this adoption center when they are medically and behaviorally ready. All animals stay in our care until they are adopted.

Across the side parking lot is the Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Clinic where low cost spays/neuters for the public and the SPCA are performed. More than 41,000 surgeries have been performed since its opening in 2009!

In 2015 we had more adoptions than any previous year with 3,435 adoptions. The Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Clinic altered 6,355 pets. Our volunteer program included 1,400 volunteers who served more than 49,000 hours – that's the equivalent of 24 full-time employees!



# Self-Guided Tour



The **RECEPTION AREA** is a visitor's first impression of the SPCA. It is where guests are welcomed and assisted with any questions they may have. Turn to your right and you'll have an unobstructed view of our Tree of Life. The tree and its leaves were made from a decommissioned animal control gas chamber. Its leaves (and the memorial tiles flanking the windows on the other wall and the bricks outside the adoption center) honor people's previous and current pets. People can make a donation to have a tile, leaf, or brick created for their pet. Moving further into the adoption center, you'll find yourself between the **ADOPTION AREA** on your left, where adoption counselors meet with potential adopters to help them know more about our available pets and proceed with adoption inquiries, and the **RETAIL STORE** on your right. The retail store offers high-quality pet supplies at reasonable prices and any profit made from these sales is used to help us care for our animals. It is open to the public, not just adopters, seven days per week during our regular hours of operation.

If you walk down the center hallway, you'll find the **CAT WING**. All rooms have elevated surfaces, cubbies for quiet time, and televisions with looping videos of birds and small animals that would spark a cat's interest. All of these enhance the cats' stay with us while they wait to be adopted. We have four large communal rooms – the single room to your left and three of the rooms in the cat hallway to your right. The two rooms in the back of the hallway have screened porches that the cats can access via pet doors during the day. One room has cages for any cats who do not like the communal option. There is a small room in the center of the hallway that can be used for a cat with special needs. The kitten room, the first on your left as you proceed down the cat hallway, has cages to house kittens individually or with siblings. Keeping litters separate minimizes exposure to germs that their undeveloped immune systems would not be able to manage, therefore helping to keep them healthy. Kittens come out and play multiple times throughout the day one cage-worth at a time.

To visit the **RABBIT WING** continue down the main hallway and make a right. Each cage has elevated surfaces, enclosed areas, a litter box with shredded paper, and enrichment such as hay wheels, toys, and much more. The adjoining small critter room has cages that can house guinea pigs, gerbils, or other pocket pets. Volunteers get the rabbits and small pets out of their enclosures twice a day for exercise, petting, and cage cleaning.

The **DOG WING** is at the end of the main hallway. The wing consists of four pods. Each pod consists of four (or five) dog bedrooms and a fenced play yard. Typically, one dog is housed per bedroom, but may contain a bonded pair or a litter of puppies who have outgrown our puppy area.

Most dogs are crated overnight and during part of the mornings to promote house-training and safety. While crated, they have access to water and an enrichment option, usually a treat-stuffed Kong toy. The dogs go outside for play and bathroom breaks seven times per day. These excursions are part of a structured feeding schedule that includes a morning and evening meal. Staff manage these outings and often have multiple volunteers to assist with the movement and socialization of the dogs.

There are four visit rooms throughout the dog area where potential adopters can have time with their selected dog to get to know one another. Staff and volunteers assist with facilitating these visits there or in a dog's bedroom.

Through the door at the back of the dog area is the **PUPPY ROOM**. There are four puppy tubs with plenty of space for the puppies to eat and sleep and have a separate area to use the bathroom. Each tub has water and food bowls that are kept full all the times, linens to sleep on, and plenty of toys to play with. There are two visit rooms that can house bigger puppies (that can jump out of the tubs) or the occasional overflow as well as providing a space for adopters to visit with a particular puppy. For health reasons we do not put the puppies on the floor outside the tubs, nor are they taken outside the building. Puppies are adopted very, very quickly, sometimes within hours of becoming available.

Perhaps you saw a brown tabby cat or two outside when you arrived. **BUDDY AND GRACIE** are two feral cats that took up residence here more than 8 years ago. They are fixed and vaccinated and don't seem to be going anywhere. They are fairly self-sufficient, but we feed them and provide warm spaces to stay when the weather gets really cold.