

First Monday

From the desk of Kim Janzen, President/CEO
Monday, May 21, 2018



This brief monthly memo addresses our belief that communication is the essence of appreciation and provides a way for us to stay in touch with you – our most important donors. We owe a debt of gratitude to all who have donated their time, treasure and talents to make our work possible.

The many people who are grateful for you...

Happy spring to you and yours! Did you know these warm months are the SPCA's busiest time of year? Kittens, puppies and abandoned pets of all kinds come to us in need of help.

But before I share two recent animal rescue stories that your support made possible, I want to update you on something bigger and even more important.

What could be more important than all the individual animal lives you are saving? The answer to that is the impact your support has on all the animals who will **never need saving**. This is your update on the ultimate prevention of cruelty to animals: our services that help people stop the accidental breeding of their pets.

With the SPCA's low-cost community spay/neuter program, you are helping to turn the tide for animals and for the people who love them. **People like Eva.**

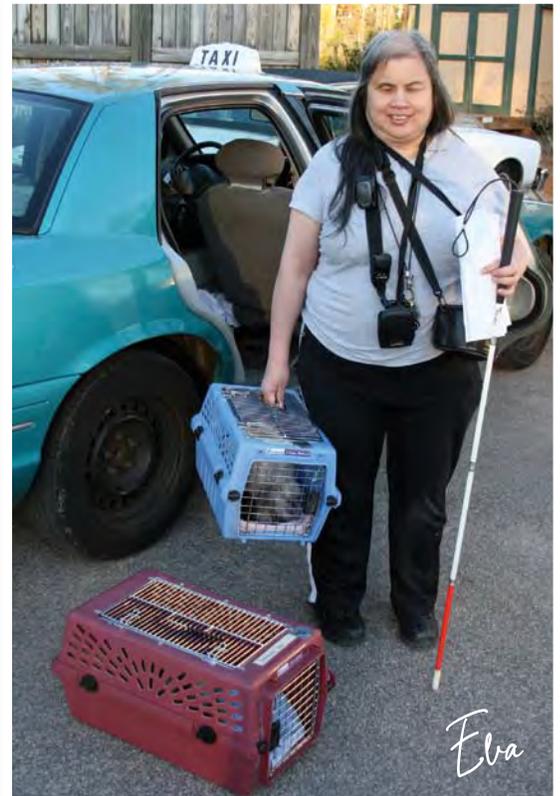
When Eva's taxi pulled up to the SPCA of Wake County, it was clear she faced a bigger challenge to getting her three cats fixed than other low-income pet owners.

Eva is completely blind and without a support system of friends or family (a human family that is). For a long time, Eva had wanted to have her three beloved companions spayed. But it wasn't until she learned about the SPCA's discounted surgery options that she was able to have it done.

On the day of her appointment, Eva booked her taxi, crated her three cats and made her way to the SPCA alone. The taxi waited for her, still on the clock, as Eva checked her three cats in, and again when she picked them up.

Although Eva's story is unique, her situation is all too familiar – a devoted pet owner unable to afford the one-time cost of spay/neuter surgery.

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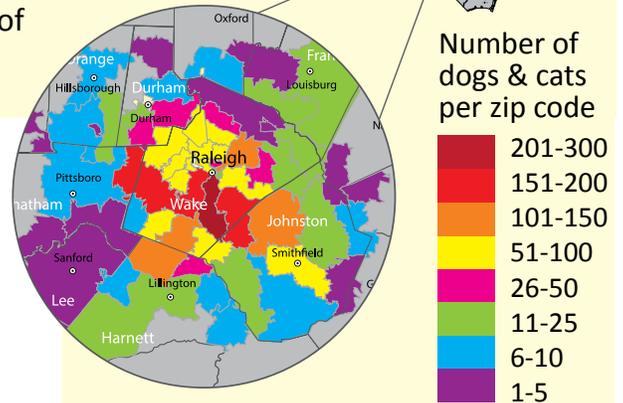
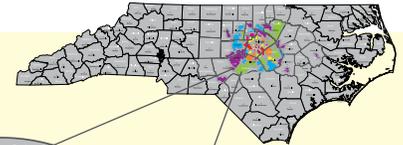
Above: At the SPCA, Eva was proud and excited to have her photo taken with her three cats.

From January 2009 through December 2017, our low-cost spay/neuter program has provided over 51,445 surgeries.

Consequently, county-wide shelter euthanasia has been reduced by **75% over the last decade.**

The downward trend began in 2010 after the first full year of the spay/neuter clinic operation.

SPCA Community Spay/Neuter Program: The SPCA's low-cost services are available to any pet owner who needs them. This heat map by zip code shows the 2017 distribution areas of pet owners served by the SPCA's spay/neuter program.



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Eva is exactly who the SPCA had in mind when asking donors to build the Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Clinic in the Susan & Randall Ward Center just over ten years ago this year.

This program is the single most effective donor-driven effort to reduce animal suffering and end the unnecessary euthanasia of animals in our community.

Two special needs pets you just saved ...

When three-month-old Riley showed up at the door of a nearby animal shelter, they knew he didn't stand a chance. Even if the giant tumor on the puppy's muzzle was not cancer, his chances of adoption with it were zero. So they reached out to the SPCA for help!



Although tests showed the tumor was benign, it needed to be removed to prevent complications as the puppy grew. Veterinarians surgically removed the tumor and this handsome pup found a loving home.

Meet Dabio, an abandoned, five-year-old cat who had suffered severe injuries to both eyes. In March, Dabio came to the SPCA with injuries significant enough to cause blindness as well as an ongoing infection and pain.



Veterinarians performed the delicate surgery to safely remove Dabio's non-functioning eyes. This petite, lovable cat recovered quickly thanks to exceptional care, a good dose of antibiotics and lots and lots and lots of love.

A time-sensitive opportunity ...

I would be remiss if I didn't share the enclosed matching gift campaign going on right now to DOUBLE or even TRIPLE your impact. Please see enclosed to learn more. *Thank you for all that you do to change the world.*

Gratitude is Everywhere!

Riley and Dabio both faced euthanasia at nearby animal shelters. Thanks to you, the SPCA saved both animals and strengthened the ties with these partner shelters who are grateful for the life-saving teamwork!

FIRST MONDAY is provided to friends of the SPCA of Wake County to thank our supporters and advance the cause of philanthropy. Questions? Please call me at 919-532-2090 or by email at kjanzen@spcawake.org. Or contact Mondy Lamb, VP of Philanthropy, 919-532-2086 or mlamb@spcawake.org.