

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 4 | WINTER 2019/2020

PAGES 4-6

YOUR LASTING IMPACT

From Shelter Dog
To Family Member
To Cancer-Fighting Hero

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CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE

NEWS FROM THE SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

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MAIN OFFICE & PET ADOPTION CENTER
200 Petfinder Lane • Raleigh, NC 27603
919-772-2326 | spcawake.org

SAVE A LIFE. DONATE NOW.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Wake County (SPCA Wake) is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency.

We are not affiliated with, nor do we receive funding from the ASPCA located in New York City. There is no national spca. **Donations given to us stay in our community, helping local pets and families. Tax ID # 56-0891732**



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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays to you and your family, whether two-legged, four-legged, or both! **FAMILY.** That's the perfect word to begin this letter.

I'm sure it comes as no surprise to you that most pet owners think of their companion animals as members of their family. I'll bet you do too. The truth is that pets have the power to comfort the lonely, entertain the energetic, create a family, and transform people's lives with their unconditional love.

But transformation goes both ways. This year, **over 4,000 homeless pets will come through our doors in need.** It is only because of your support that each of them will undergo their own transformation with a second chance, a happy home and a loving family.

We celebrate every single one of our successes, but the truth is that they are **YOUR** successes too. I hope you'll join us in your own celebratory way as you read the heartwarming stories on the following pages. These stories are just one small peek into the larger impact you make through your financial support of SPCA Wake.

It is a triumph of spirit, generosity, and compassion that so many animals who came to us in need will spend the holidays with a loving family and the comforts of home.

I hope you'll take a moment this busy holiday season to pause, appreciate those you love, and remember the difference you are making for pets and people in our community.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making it possible.

With Gratitude,

Kim Janzen
President/CEO



SPCA Wake's President/CEO, Kim Janzen and her faithful companion, Murphy.

YOUR GIFT MATTERS

The gift you make today impacts lives in a very real way:

Donations given to SPCA Wake stay in our community, helping local pets and families in need. And we rely on donations to fund all of our lifesaving programs. It's the time of year when we count on people like you to keep our vital programming alive. **Over 30% of the funds we will use all year long come in December.** Will you give a special year-end gift to help?

Your gift will keep incredible 2019 progress in motion:

In the first 10 months of 2019 (Jan 1- Oct 30), we have rescued 3,756 companion animals – an 18% increase from the same time in 2018. Your support is expanding our Keep Families Together programs, including a 37% increase in the number of pet-owning seniors receiving assistance.



PROGRAMS TO SAVE DOGS & PUPPIES

PROGRESS REPORT

In the first 10 months of the year, SPCA Wake took in **1,596 dogs and puppies (16% increase)** – including 76 heartworm positive dogs who received treatment **(50% increase)!**



A gift of \$500 funds the average cost from initial rescue, to transport, shelter care and supplies, veterinary medical care, to placement in a loving home for **one dog.**

\$5,000 funds 10



PROGRAMS TO SAVE CATS & KITTENS

PROGRESS REPORT

In the first 10 months of the year, SPCA Wake took in **1,883 cats and kittens (a 60% increase)** – including 1,334 felines transferred into our care from overwhelmed NC public shelter partners.



A gift of \$500 funds the average cost from initial rescue, to transport, shelter care and supplies, veterinary medical care, to placement in a loving home for **one cat.**

\$5,000 funds 10



PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE

PROGRESS REPORT

The number of seniors receiving supplies through the AniMeals program **increased by 37%.** An enhanced vaccine and spay/neuter assistance program for families in need launched.



A gift of \$600 funds the average cost for six months of the client care, pet food and supplies plus delivery for **one senior citizen pet owner/family in need.**

\$1,200 funds 1 year

Any gift amount is greatly appreciated and no gift is too small. Donate online: spcawake.org
By phone: 919-532-2083 or 919-532-7065 By mail: 200 Petfinder Lane, Raleigh, NC | Your gift is tax-deductible.
For directed gift opportunities, please contact Mondy Lamb at mlamb@spcawake.org or call 919-532-2086

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK

Pictured here and on the cover:
Captain Crunch, an SPCA Wake adoptee, beat cancer, then helped his owner survive it too.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT DOESN'T STOP AT OUR SHELTER DOOR



Captain Crunch shows his support at an SPCA event.

Your support of SPCA Wake saves thousands of our community's dogs and cats each year. Placed with loving families, these pets give back in profound ways to the people who opened their homes and hearts to give love to a shelter pet.

Providing Healing and Hope

For Courtney and her husband, William, a family isn't complete without a dog. They know first-hand that our pets care for us just as much as we care for them.

Courtney was volunteering at the SPCA Wake Pet Adoption Center when she saw Captain Crunch in an outdoor play yard. He introduced himself by walking over to sit on Courtney's feet.

"He didn't want to play, didn't want to rough house, he just wanted love," says Courtney.

"He looked up at me with his big brown eyes, and I knew at that moment, I needed him as much as he needed me."

Eight months after bringing him home, Captain Crunch was diagnosed with a mast cell tumor. There was no question about what to do next. They had the tumor removed, and he made a full recovery.

Less than two years later, it was Captain Crunch's turn to care for his family. William was diagnosed with cancer and wore a medical device for 48 hours every other week for chemotherapy.

Courtney and her husband credit the sweet pittie for his full recovery. "Captain

Pictured: Captain Crunch lets the healing begin.



Crunch snuggled with my husband for days at a time when I couldn't be home due to work. He put my husband at ease and made his recovery as calming as possible," says Courtney.

The Right Connection Is a Lifeline

April thought she knew what she was looking for when she came to SPCA Wake in search of an emotional support dog for her daughter Elysha, who has autism.

They'd been looking for months with no luck. Although the pair had met several dogs, a connection between the dog and child was missing each time.

At the SPCA Pet Adoption Center, staff and volunteer matchmakers are often exceptional at connecting families with just the right pet. Knowing JR's outgoing personality, a volunteer recommended a scrappy mutt as a potential fit.

From the beginning, JR seemed determined to go home with them. He danced all around Elysha and then sat on her lap. That did it; everyone was in agreement, JR included. The little dog was coming home.

April knows it's a matter of finding "the right dog for the right people." She says, "He wasn't what we thought we wanted. He was what we needed.

There isn't a day that goes by that he doesn't put a smile on our faces and love in our hearts."



Above: JR never leaves Elysha's side, making life much more enjoyable for the both of them.

Sometimes, Being Understood Is Everything

Two years ago, Bug the cat was described as "fractious." While in the care of SPCA Wake, Bug made it clear that her preference was to spend as little time as possible with people.

Fortunately, this is just what Kristen and her family wanted in a family cat. With her allergies, Kristen needed an independent kitty to be loved from afar and pitch in with mice control on the family farm every once in awhile. Bug seemed like the perfect fit.

To acclimate her to her new home, Bug stayed in the barn's feed room for a few weeks. Bug was so aggressive during that time Kristen was sure she'd be gone as soon as they opened the door. But Bug wasn't going anywhere.

Kristen says it took Bug about a week "to assume her self-assigned role of 'goat protector' for the farm's three fainting goat brothers."

Bug earned the nickname "worst feral cat ever" after she started jumping in Kristen's lap for attention. What does Kristen have to say about their supposedly-feral cat?

"I am on a daily dose of allergy medicine, but Bug is worth it!"



TOP: Ava AKA "Bug" takes a minute from her surveillance to pose for the camera.

BOTTOM: Bug explores the property, often playing hide/seek with barnyard friends.

Four-Legged Support System

After being alone for many years, Theresa said she “needed some companionship.” She found that companion at the SPCA, and his name was Elvis. Theresa says, **“He makes me laugh; he makes me smile; he gives me purpose.”**

Theresa is a veteran, so she knows all about having a purpose. She feels that adopting a pet can be a wonderful thing for veterans, saying, **“It lifts you up because you take care of them, and they take care of you emotionally.”** Elvis sees to his job as emotional caregiver by following Theresa from room to room, stealing her chair when she’s not looking, and sleeping in her bed each night.

Theresa’s advice for veterans? **“It’s important to know there is help out there” and “it’s well worth the effort to reach out.”**

Sometimes that help has four paws.

DID YOU KNOW? The SPCA extends benefits to veterans and military families year-round, including expedited volunteer opportunities, reduced adoption fees, additional help in finding the right pet for their needs, and post-adoption behavioral help and referrals.



Above: Elvis was just the cat Theresa needed. He adds companionship and personality to her everyday life!

A Dog Who Loves His Job

Susan was looking for a dog she could train as a therapy dog. After six months of searching for the right dog, Susan met Frosty on a spur-of-the-moment trip to the SPCA. Frosty didn’t look very therapeutic at the time. He jumped “like a jackrabbit” and had energy to spare. Despite what many would consider a less-than-stellar first impression (when Frosty tinkled on Susan) and advice from friends to choose a different dog, Susan was hooked.

Susan credits Frosty with her physical health, saying, “I would not be walking two miles a day without him.” **Frosty is changing more lives than just Susan’s. He became a certified therapy dog and has been visiting hospitals and hospice homes for about a year.** “He knows his job and is always ready at 10:30 A.M. every Saturday.”

Below: Frosty proudly wears this badge when he visits Transitions LifeCare every weekend.



SOLD-OUT CROWD ENJOYS ANNUAL GALA

On Saturday, October 12, supporters gathered at the 24th annual Fur Ball to celebrate the lifesaving work of the SPCA of Wake County.

Held at the Angus Barn Pavilion, the venue was filled with 12,000 sparkling lights, each representing one pet helped last year. Special thanks to Dwight and Lynn Alford of CEI – The Digital Office, for their lead gift, Danny & Hilda Wilson of Movin' On Movers, and to Governor Roy Cooper.

AVAILABLE NOW: Sponsorships for the 2020 Fur Ball on Saturday, October 3. Call Amy at 919-532-2082 or visit spcawake.org/furball2020

THANK YOU SPONSORS



Laura Kneavel
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DIAMONDS DIRECT



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FUR BALL
25th annual

AVAILABLE NOW
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020

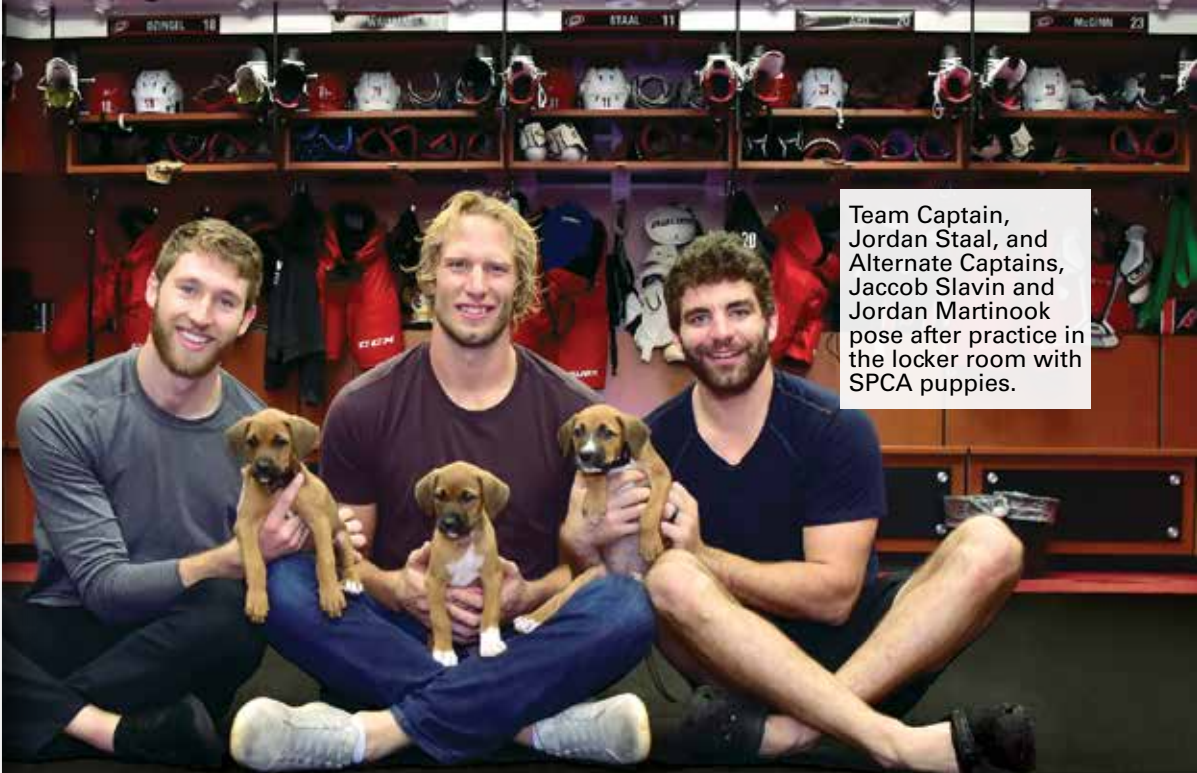
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THE CAROLINA HURRICANES AND
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY PRESENT:

CANES CANINES & CATS 2020 CALENDAR



Team Captain, Jordan Staal, and Alternate Captains, Jacob Slavin and Jordan Martinook pose after practice in the locker room with SPCA puppies.

\$20

All proceeds benefit
SPCA Wake and
Carolina Hurricanes
Foundation.

NEW!

As if puppies and kittens weren't cute enough, we upped their game by pairing them with Carolina Hurricanes' players!

Each calendar is \$20 and proceeds benefit SPCA Wake and Carolina Hurricanes Foundation.

Purchase your **Canes, Canines & Cats 2020 Calendar** in person at the SPCA Adoption Center's Retail Store. The calendar will also be available at The Eye team store (located inside PNC Arena) and at CarolinaProShop.com.



ANDREI SVECHNIKOV #37 | Forward from Barnaul, Russia
Andrei started playing hockey at the age of three, and he chose to wear #37 because it's the same number his brother wears. His biggest talent outside of hockey is magic, and his favorite sport outside of hockey is soccer.



Visit spcawake.org/calendar to see behind-the-scenes pictures and video from the photoshoot!