

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2020

YOU'RE A LIFESAVER!

Your 2019
Impact Report

PAGE 3

THE PURR HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

How an SPCA Wake cat
made international headlines

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JOIN US ONLINE AT SPCAWAKE.ORG

Photo by Brooke Cain | *The News & Observer*

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE

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Pet Adoption Center & Business Office

200 Petfinder Lane | Raleigh, NC | 27603
CALL: 919-772-2326 VISIT: spcawake.org
nonprofit tax ID # 56-0891732



ABOUT US

Founded in Raleigh in 1967, SPCA Wake is an independent, 501(c)3 animal welfare organization and shelter, serving the central region of NC. Funded by charitable support, we provide vital community programs that pick up where local government agencies leave off. We work in 25 counties through collaborative partnerships that save pets and help people.

Please note: We are not affiliated with the ASPCA and we do not receive tax dollars or government funds. *We are supported by caring donors like YOU.*

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YOUR IMPACT. MY GRATITUDE. HER LIFE.

Letter from the VP of Philanthropy
Mondy Lamb

My new kitten shouldn't be alive right now. And in any previous year she wouldn't have made it. But 2019 was different.

Your investment in our work is why she's alive. I owe you my gratitude because I love this fluffy little life with all my heart. *Here are three key things to know about how you saved her:*

1- We are committed to collaboration.

Zoomer was **one of 924 kittens** transferred into our care last year instead of being euthanized at nearby shelters. Kittens too young to survive on their own are routinely marked unadoptable by shelters without the resources to care for them. When Zoomer arrived at her local shelter she was just three weeks old, an orphan, malnourished, and dangerously thin. But instead of putting her down, the shelter staff picked up the phone and called us. *Working with partner shelters increases our collective impact.*

2-We are committed to high-impact initiatives, such as the Foster Care Program.

Zoomer was **one of 1,362 kittens** rescued last year, many of which were temporarily housed in a volunteer foster home. This program functions as flexible, emergency housing and allows us to offer our high-intake shelter partners an instant relief valve from euthanasia. When Zoomer arrived at the SPCA, our shelter was full, but a volunteer did have space. Over 300 passionate volunteers provide care to our community's most vulnerable animals, transforming a potentially expensive endeavor into an immensely rewarding experience for people and pets alike.

3-We are committed to the very best care for each pet we take in.

Zoomer was **one of 4,295 pets** our medical team cared for last year. They are the best at what they do, and their work is demanding. Our staff veterinarian advised the course of care for my one kitten – *as well as four thousand other pets in need.*

The results on page 3 show the impact of your investment in our work. I don't need to look that far – there's a purring kitten at my feet. And I love her. Thank you for bringing her to me.

Mondy

Mondy Lamb | VP of Philanthropy

2019 IMPACT REPORT



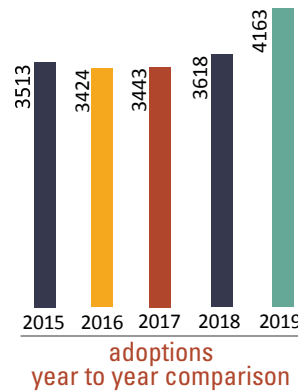
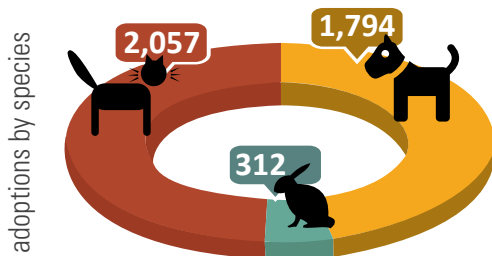
Your support improves the community and it changes the world. Thank you! We are passionate about showcasing this lifesaving work that YOU make possible. Please let us know if you'd like to learn more! We are here for you.

– Mondy Lamb, VP of Philanthropy
mlamb@spcawake.org or 919.532.2086



4,216 LIVE OUTCOMES

- 4,163 animals adopted
- 43 returned to owner
- 10 transferred to partner groups



1,300 PETS FOSTERED

333 volunteer foster families cared for young, injured or elderly animals through the Foster Care Program.



4,558 ANIMALS SPAYED & NEUTERED

- 2,736 pets altered through the low-cost Saving Lives Clinic
- 1,822 pets altered through the spay/neuter voucher program
- 82 pets altered through the \$5 Snip, Snip, Hooray initiative

58,097 FIXES Number of pets spayed/neutered through the Saving Lives clinic since its opening in 2009
That's **389,840 births prevented** that likely would have needed shelter services



48,180 MEALS PROVIDED

66 pets of low-income, homebound senior citizens receive regular deliveries of pet food and supplies through the AniMeals program. An additional 22 area groups receive bulk pet food and supplies to distribute.



12,402 REQUESTS FOR HELP ANSWERED

SPCA Wake helps pets stay in their homes and out of shelters by providing vital resources and assistance to people



1,689 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers gave 61,098 hours, equivalent to 29 full-time employees



156 CAT TALES READING PROGRAM

Children whose confidence improved through reading out loud in front of the judgment-free audience of shelter pets

262 PETS MICROCHIPPED

through two initiatives to make microchip ID accessible for pet owners in need

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



OTHER ANIMAL OUTCOMES

SPCA Wake started 2019 with 243 animals in our care and took in an additional 4,295 animals throughout the year. Out of this total:

- 4,216 were live outcomes (see top of page)
- 48 died and 54 were euthanized by the SPCA or while in the care of our veterinary partners. Euthanasia at the SPCA is performed with kindness and dignity to relieve the suffering of animals who, for medical or behavior reasons, cannot be rehomed.
- 220 were in our care on 12-31-19



89.74%

Expenses*: 89.74% goes to programs and program support and 10.26% goes to fundraising

*source: FY19 990 Tax Return

WHEN THEY NEEDED A HERO, YOU WERE THERE



Baby Yoda sits quietly while staff veterinarian, Dr. Hunsucker, cleans her wounds.

Families care for each other during tough times. A homeless pet in trouble needs someone to be a lifeline until they find a new family. With your support, we are able to provide a critical safety net for thousands of animals in our community, pets like Baby Yoda (below) and Bazooka (facing page).

Let the Healing Begin

Baby Yoda's list of medical concerns is long and includes everything from hookworms to fractures. She was found as a stray, limping and covered in lacerations and open wounds.

Her history isn't clear, but at only nine months old, it is believed she has old injuries from being **shot multiple times and new injuries from being hit by a car.**

Her desire to be loved outweighed her painful injuries. Her tail wagged whenever someone looked in her direction. Now, her wounds are being cleaned and treated with antibiotic cream daily.

She wanted a second chance, and thanks to you, she's getting it. It won't take long for Baby Yoda to find a family to give her all the love she deserves.

The safety net program is especially helpful in eliminating euthanasia as the only option for injured pets at our shelter partners operating with limited resources.



Baby Yoda loves attention, even when her paws are soaking in epsom salt.



Baby Yoda on the way to SPCA Wake.



The day Baby Yoda was rescued off the street.

Ready, Set, Exercise!

Climbing a flight of stairs or jumping onto the bed might not seem very impressive for your average housecat, but for the cat named Bazooka, it's both a surprise and very good news.

Bazooka was transferred to SPCA Wake from a shelter partner in Davidson County. He was surrendered after his owner passed away. At the time, Bazooka weighed more than 35 pounds!

Remember to Love First

Whenever we hear stories like this, it's easy to immediately jump to conclusions, assuming abuse and neglect, but that's not always the case.

We learned that **Bazooka's owner suffered from dementia.** It is likely Bazooka's owner would fill his food bowl anytime it was empty, without realizing the implications on his cat's frame. He wasn't abused. He was very much loved.

A 35-pound cat isn't something you see every day. Soon local news outlets heard Bazooka's story and wanted to share it. His story has been shared by local outlets as well as Good Morning America, the New York Post and the London Associated Press.

We were able to tell Bazooka's true story – one of compassion, acceptance, and understanding.

The Happiest of Endings

Soon a special someone heard about Bazooka. She is a lifelong cat lover, and is committed to helping Bazooka lose the weight.

These two stories are very different but they share one important element: **they both received a second chance for love and family because of you.**



A perfect fit! Bazooka's owner is motivated to help him lose the weight! She, herself lost over 125 lbs!



Bazooka's spot on Good Morning America.



The day Bazooka arrived at the SPCA. Even just picking him up was a group effort.



Bazooka relaxes by his new mom before going home.

Grateful pet owners lined up for the opportunity to have their pets microchipped.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Losing your dog or cat is one of the most upsetting and stressful experiences for any pet owner.

Yet thousands of North Carolina pets are lost each year and never reunited with their families due to a lack of identification.

Henry, a long-time Raleigh resident, knows this all too well. The painful experience of losing the family dog three years ago is still fresh in his mind.

We met Henry, his wife, three children, and their new dog during our 2019 pet-ID drive. The family was determined never to let their pet go missing again, but in case she did, the family had vowed to microchip their new dog so that he would always have ID. The only problem? Their veterinarian charged \$180 for implanting a microchip ID.

The Cost of Microchip ID

This financial barrier to microchipping can be a common one for pet owners.

However, the price of no pet ID

is even higher, for all of us.

Lost pets end up in overcrowded animal shelters. Tax-payer resources are used to round up, shelter, and euthanize unclaimed animals. And in most areas of our community, a pet without ID has just 72 hours to be claimed.

A microchip identification can change all this.

So, Let's Change It!

Determined to change the future of lost pets in our community, SPCA Wake teamed up with Care First Animal Hospitals in the 2019 Chips for Change Campaign.

This campaign ran from June 1 to November 30 to coincide with hurricane season and emergency preparedness planning. Our state has been impacted year after year by hurricanes and devastating floods. These disasters force people to evacuate their homes, sometimes with little notice and consequently pets and people are separated.

Chips for Change allowed pet



Cats were brought into a tent to be microchipped.

owners to pay what they could afford for a microchip (including lifetime registration), even if that amount was \$0.

SPCA Wake also teamed up with Subaru and the ASPCA to hold a \$5 microchip clinic in November.

We focused this effort on the Raleigh areas where the highest numbers of stray and lost pets were picked up by Animal Control Officers.

This six-month pet-ID drive resulted in 262 dogs and cats getting microchipped. Henry's family dog was one of them.

We told Henry we would pass his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to YOU for making this work possible!



Left: Ariana the day she arrived at SPCA Wake
Right top: Ariana looked so stylish in her pink polka-dot dress



Ariana waiting patiently at the Adoption Center for her new family to pick her up

AN ORPHANED PUP, A BUSY INTERSECTION – It’s a rough road home, literally

No city dweller would ever call the rural crossroads where Ariana was abandoned, “busy.” At least not until they saw cars barreling through the broken asphalt intersection.

Ariana was only seven weeks old when she was found under a blanket in the middle of this intersection. Noticing the odd lump in the road, a good Samaritan pulled over and whisked the puppy to safety at their local county animal shelter. This shelter is one of our collaborative partners in saving lives. They reached out to us to team up on Ariana’s rescue.

It was just in the nick of time – the young puppy was rapidly growing weaker. She had parvo, a highly contagious canine disease. For puppies, parvo can be a death sentence. Acting quickly, SPCA Wake began emergency supportive medical

care to give Ariana’s little immune system a chance to fight the infection.

One of the SPCA’s greatest strengths is our unshakeable commitment to every animal who comes through our doors. The moment a homeless pet reaches us, we use every resource at our disposal to ensure his or her health and well-being.

In Ariana’s case, this meant 24-hour veterinary care then recovery in a loving volunteer foster home until her adoption. **The most important part of Ariana’s story is that she had your support through it all.**

Thanks to you, there was never a question if we would take her in or if we would send her to an emergency vet to get well. Thank you for believing in and supporting our commitment to every pet we take in!

SANTA PAWS 5K & FUN RUN

Thank you to everyone who came out on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019 to support and participate in the annual 5K & Fun Run at Dix Park.

THANK YOU SPONSORS:

- The Greens at Tryon Apartment Homes
- Carolina Ranch Animal Hospital & Resort
- Springboard Promotions | Ricci Law Firm
- Town and Country Veterinary Hospital | Phydeaux
- Unleashed, the Dog & Cat Store | Reunion Marketing
- Care First Animal Hospital | Movin’ On Movers

Visit spcawake.org/5K for details and our 2020 race date: 11-5-20



Pets and their owners laced up AND dressed up to run this unique annual event!

SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

DOG WALK & WOOFSTOCK



Get Started Today

visit: spcawake.org/walk

Register now to join us for a meaningful and fun event with a bit of competition and prizes. Every two weeks is a new team challenge!

FREE registration.
Raise \$100 to save a homeless pet.

EVENT DETAILS

When: Saturday, April 4

NEW event hours: 5:30pm - 9:30pm

Where: Koka Booth Amphitheatre, Cary, NC

More: Enjoy the sunset and get ready to light it up at Bark After Dark! Bring your family, friends and fur babies and enjoy the evening out.

Contact Amy Crum, Director of Events:
919-532-2082 | acrum@spcawake.org

