THE PURR HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

How an SPCA Wake cat made international headlines

PAGE 4-5

YOU’RE A LIFESAVER!
Your 2019 Impact Report

PAGE 3

Photo by Brooke Cain | The News & Observer
YOUR IMPACT. MY GRATITUDE. HER LIFE.

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 Lamb | VP of Philanthropy

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Mondy Lamb | VP of Philanthropy
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

2019 IMPACT REPORT

4,216 LIVE OUTCOMES
- 4,163 animals adopted
- 43 returned to owner
- 10 transferred to partner groups

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

1,300 PETS FOSTERED
333 volunteer foster families cared for young, injured or elderly animals through the Foster Care Program.

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

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

156 CAT TALES READING PROGRAM
Children whose confidence improved through reading out loud in front of the judgment-free audience of shelter pets

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

*source: FY19 990 Tax Return
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.
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.
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 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!
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
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