

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 3 | SPRING 2020

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

Helping the
most vulnerable
in our community

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in peace of mind &
calming anxiety

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WHAT WE'RE DOING AND
LIVES YOU'RE IMPACTING

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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.*

ADOPT: spcawake.org/adopt
Kim Flowers, Adoption Center Director
kflowers@spcawake.org

DONATE: spcawake.org/donate
Mondy Lamb, VP of Philanthropy
mlamb@spcawake.org

VOLUNTEER: spcawake.org/volunteer
Naomi Avissar, Director of Volunteers
navissar@spcawake.org

PRESIDENT & CEO

Kim Janzen, kjanzen@spcawake.org

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COVID-19
SPCA WAKE UPDATE

Dear Friends,

I sincerely hope this finds you and those you love safe, happy, and well. The worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 has changed the world we live in, challenged our community, and created hardship in ways we could never have predicted or planned for.

While there is no precedent for COVID-19, there is precedent for compassion, courage, tenacity, and love. Crisis has a way of revealing the heart of a community, the spirit of an organization, and the character of people.

The truth is that **I am filled with gratitude for what I see happening around us.** Everywhere I look, people are pulling together, sharing resources, checking on neighbors, calling loved ones, and truly connecting.

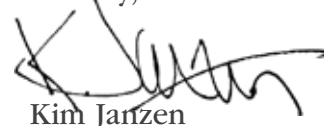
Pets are becoming even more important in people's lives as providers of comfort, happiness, and endless entertainment.

Every day, I see our team rise to the challenge of fulfilling our mission in the midst of COVID-19. I am in awe of their innovation, their unwavering commitment to animals, and their ability to successfully overcome whatever obstacles might be placed in their path.

Today, **I have never been more grateful for the generosity of people like you** who believe and invest in our lifesaving work. The stories that follow are just a few examples of the world we have created together.

Thank you for your friendship and support. Together, we are stronger than ever.

Warmly,



Kim Janzen
President and CEO



A letter from Kim Janzen,
SPCA Wake President & CEO

HELPING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE PANDEMIC

Setting Spay/Neuter Surgeries Aside to Save Human Lives

This pandemic has changed nearly every aspect of SPCA operations in a short period of time. When the stay-at-home order went into effect for Wake County residents, we made another difficult decision: We stopped all spay and neuter surgeries at the Saving Lives Clinic. Closing the Saving Lives Clinic was a necessity. **Many of the essential supplies we use every day for animal medical care and surgery are needed right now for human critical care.**

Spay/Neuter surgery is an integral part of our mission, and our work to solve pet overpopulation. **However, in these times we have a much larger issue to solve.**

With pleas from the doctors and nurses for donations of personal protective equipment (PPE), we emptied our storage closets and donated the **SPCA's supply of 300 surgical masks, 115 gowns, 900 pairs of shoe covers, and 4,800 protective gloves.**

We donated the gear to protect the lifesaving heroes working on the front lines of the pandemic at WakeMed. *We continue to hold them and all healthcare workers and first responders in our thoughts.*

We know when the pandemic passes, the staff and volunteers at the SPCA will come back with vigor, energized, and most importantly healthy -- and **ready to pick up where we left off. Thank you for standing by our side during this challenging time.**



Staff loads the PPE to bring to WakeMed.



ABOVE: The SPCA's veterinary team took inventory of PPE at the Saving Lives Clinic and collected unopened supplies to donate.

RIGHT: The SPCA encouraged other veterinary clinics and organizations to donate supplies, while streaming the donation drop-off at WakeMed in Raleigh, NC.



WORKING WITH WHAT WE HAVE

Each year the SPCA rescues and treats hundreds of dogs with a potentially-deadly disease known as heartworms. **Though the treatments take a significant amount of time and preparation, the use of PPE is minimal.** Because of this, we've been able to accelerate these life-saving treatments and save more lives.

COVID-19
SPCA WAKE UPDATE

ANIMEALS PROGRAM JUMPS TO ACTION

DELIVERING PET SUPPLIES TO THOSE IN NEED

**With no visitors allowed,
pets help the homebound**



Two SPCA staff deliver pet food to AniMeals participants.



AniMeals participant Willa M. and her dog Ruby.



AniMeals participant Margaret W. with her support dog.

This pandemic has forced SPCA Wake to change plans, pivot, and re-evaluate what our priority services are. While reviewing programmatic priorities, **our team wholeheartedly agreed that AniMeals was one service we could not suspend.**

The AniMeals program delivers bi-monthly pet food and supplies to homebound seniors and disabled adults in our community.

As word of the pandemic began to spread, we immediately thought of the AniMeals participants, **many of whom would fall into the high-risk category for complications from COVID-19.**

Before the local health official announced Stay-at-Home orders, Molly, the SPCA's Director of Community Initiatives, made urgent calls to members of our AniMeals program to see what supplies they needed most during this time of uncertainty. And the AniMeals participants were

overwhelmed with gratitude.

They knew these pet food deliveries would allow them to stay at home, without rationing their meals to feed their pets.

Because of you, pets owners like Margaret W. and her dog Hudson Alexander are riding out the storm together, safe at home.

Back in 2018, Margaret suffered from a neurological disorder. She is no longer able to drive. **Before AniMeals, Margaret needed to ration her limited income between expensive prescriptions and caring for her dog.**

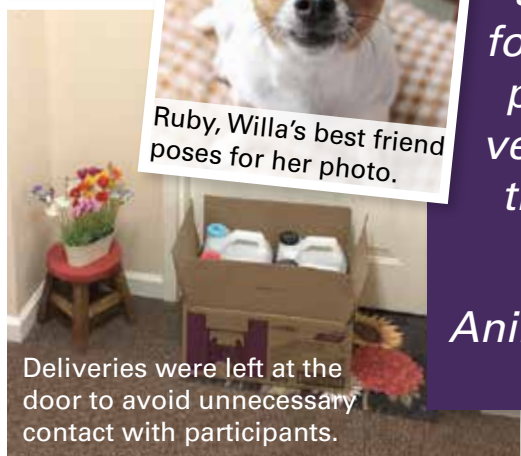
"When you're on a fixed income, as a senior citizen, and have expensive



Volunteers wore masks and gloves during the deliveries.



Janice B. receives a delivery of dog food and treats.



Ruby, Willa's best friend poses for her photo.

"This program is helpful especially for low-income seniors like me, who struggle and use their food stamps for pet food. I am very grateful for this program."

- Marie A.
AniMeals Recipient

Deliveries were left at the door to avoid unnecessary contact with participants.



Some of the participants waved from windows at the volunteers.

medications, AniMeals makes a big difference. Often seniors have to choose pet food over their medication," Margaret says. **"My dog means so much to me. He keeps me calm, he's my companion, my friend, and he's someone I can talk to,"** she continued.

and supply deliveries in time.

All the AniMeals volunteers used a face mask, gloves, and hand sanitizer during the deliveries. And for the safety of the high-risk participants, **the supplies were left outside the door, with zero contact.**

"Two of my participants opened their front doors and waved at me as I slowly pulled out of their driveway," said one volunteer. "It was bittersweet because I missed listening to their stories about the pet's mischief. We share a common bond for our pets, and I think they look forward to our visits. But I am happy knowing I'm keeping them safe and helping keep their pet by their side," he continued.

We couldn't have made this last-minute delivery without your support. **You are the lifeline allowing these seniors and homebound adults to stay safe at home. Thank you!**



Sofie is one of the nearly 50 pets that receive bi-monthly pet food.



Sofie's pet food delivery waiting outside the door.

Your support allowed an SPCA staff member to make the last-minute calls and fulfill an urgent list of supplies needed for AniMeals participants.

Because of you, SPCA Wake staff and volunteers rallied to make the pet food

COVID-19
SPCA WAKE UPDATE

HOME SHOPPING NETWORK FOR YOUR HOME FROM YOUR HOME

100% LOVE | 0% CROWDS

Adopting

Bringing families together while staying far apart.

When the SPCA decided to stop in-person adoptions to curb the spread of COVID-19, the team began work on an alternative idea: **Since you can't visit the pets, how can we bring the pets to you?**

Well, we began broadcasting adoptable pets online via Facebook Live! Each day, an SPCA staff member tours the adoption center, meeting with each adoptable pet, and streams the video on Facebook Live.

Essentially, SPCA Wake created a version of the Home Shopping Network, called the Home Adopting Network.

Potential adopters communicate directly with the camera operator, asking about specific pets or requesting belly rubs. It's the next best thing to being there in person.

Based on the outpouring of support from the public, these live events emphasized the fact that **we need pets in our lives as much as pets need us**, especially in times like this.

Pets provide company and comfort in the face of social isolation and high anxiety, that's why hundreds of people tuned in to our live broadcasts, and ended up adopting pets! To our surprise, **the videos sparked a renewed interest for many pets that had been overlooked or waited a long time for adoption.** Like Aya, (*pictured on the right*), whose time at SPCA Wake came to an end after 266+ days, all because a lucky family fell in love with her during a live broadcast!



ABOVE:

A screenshot of Facebook LIVE video with Aya. This "virtual" pet visit allowed the family to see her from the safety and comfort of home.

RIGHT:

Home Sweet Home! Aya poses with her family to celebrate her first day as a cherished pet!



HOME ADOPTING NETWORK SUCCESS!



PICTURED HERE:

Runi, the black and white puppy, hit the jackpot when her new family decided to look up the SPCA. Her new siblings Zac, Zoe and Max are head-over-heels in love!

Welcomed Distractions

When Lisa's family of five talked about getting a puppy, they knew the stars needed to align with their busy schedules. Lisa, a public school teacher, has a busy life with her three kiddos. **But everything came to a screeching halt in mid-March** because of the spread of COVID-19.

Two of the kids were heartbroken when they had to indefinitely postpone exciting milestone celebrations. Lisa knew the kids needed something else to take their attention off the news.

One day, while watching the Home Adopting Network, they saw a little black puppy named Runi. **And decided if there was ever a perfect time to adopt, this was it.** They made arrangements with the SPCA and took Runi home the next afternoon. Lisa tells us Runi is a great distraction. She has a lot of energy, keeps everyone busy, and brings joy to life in isolation.

Last year, Sonje and her husband promised their five-year-old daughter they would adopt a cat sometime after Christmas.

In March, the family still hadn't brought home a new addition, but started watching the Home Adopting Network. One cat in particular caught the family's attention.

One of the cats was particularly interactive with the hosts of the videos, so Sonje and her family made an appointment to go meet her. It turned out their favorite cat, Annie, had a friend named Thomas, so they adopted both cats at the end of March.

Sonje and her family are taking social distancing very seriously. Sonje says adopting Annie and Thomas gave her daughter someone to play with while staying in isolation.

Her daughter is also learning all about cat behavior and body language, so she knows when to play and when to give the cats some space. **Sonje says they're "having the best time in the world."**

PICTURED HERE:

Annie and Thomas are a welcomed distraction to their new family. They make staying at home much more fun.



WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you to the many of you who have already made gifts – you are life-changing during this difficult time.

DONATE online at <https://spcawake.org>
by phone at 919-772-2326, option 3
or by mail (200 Petfinder Ln.
Raleigh, NC 27603).

GIVE MONTHLY:

Your automatic monthly gift can provide vital sustained funding. Plus, monthly giving turns smaller gifts into big ones. Visit spcawake.org

DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF):

Recommend a gift via your DAF to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Wake County (SPCA Wake) **Tax ID #: 56-0891732**

GIFTS OF STOCK:

Donating stocks, bonds or mutual funds to SPCA Wake is quick and easy. For transfer instructions, visit: spcawake.org/stocks

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER GIFT:

Are you 70½ or older? To give through your IRA, just notify your IRA custodian. Satisfies your annual required minimum distribution up to the amount of your gift.

TRIBUTE GIVING:

Recognize the most important people and animals in your life with a tribute gift. Acknowledgment letters are mailed to the recipients as well as the donor. Give a tribute gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY CARE CAMPAIGN



Your help during this crisis means the world to us – to the animals in our care, to the people we are helping in the community, and to the staff on the front lines here at the SPCA.

The COVID-19 crisis has made support of local resources more important than ever. SPCA Wake is an independent non-profit, as well as a small business with 50 dedicated employees.

Our work is done locally, helps local families and pets, and is made possible by donors like you. We are deeply grateful for your support and **most importantly, we are grateful for your continued health and safety.** **If you are in a position to need resources or information, please give us a call and we will try our very best to help.** Some people are in a position to make an additional financial gift during this time. If you are in a position to give an extra gift to the emergency care fund, will you?

SPCA Wake resource help line: 919-772-2326, select option 1 or option 2 for pet resources, select option 3 to donate to the Emergency Care Campaign or visit spcawake.org/donate.

We are in this together.

Mondy Lamb
VP of Philanthropy

Questions? Let us know.
919-532-2086 (my direct line)
or email: mlamb@spcawake.org



Your gift is used wisely.
SPCA Wake holds the highest rating from Charity Navigator to indicate responsible financial stewardship, accountability, and transparency.