

# CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE  
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2019

**THIS  
PRINCESS  
SAVES  
HERSELF  
FROM THE  
DRAGON**

PAGE 4

Tiffany, an SPCA staff member takes a break with Princess, the hound mix, after an afternoon playgroup session.

**DOG WALK &  
WOOFSTOCK  
YOUR FIRST LOOK**

2019

PAGE 12

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**LOOK WHAT  
YOU MADE  
POSSIBLE:  
2018 IMPACT  
REPORT**

PAGE 3

# CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE

NEWS FROM THE SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

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SPCA of Wake County Main Office:  
SPCA Pet Adoption Center  
200 Petfinder Lane • Raleigh, NC 27603  
Phone: 919-772-2326 | spcawake.org

## SAVE A LIFE. DONATE NOW.

The SPCA of Wake County is a local non-profit that depends on donations to support our work. We do not receive funding from the ASPCA in New York.

Your gift to the SPCA of Wake County stays local to help address this community's needs.

**A 501c(3) nonprofit organization**  
**Tax ID # 56-0891732**



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**L**et's start 2019 off right – with a quick look back at 2018 and the incredible results you made possible!

### You? YES YOU.

Donors fund the SPCA's lifesaving programs that help local pets and families in need. (We are not funded by tax dollars, and we are not funded by the ASPCA.)

When you donate to the SPCA of Wake County, your financial support stays here and helps address this community's needs. I'm also thrilled to share that 90.2% of every dollar you give goes directly to programs and program support.

On page 3, you'll see our 2018 Impact Report, filled with a lot of numbers. Behind each one of those numbers, **there's a person**. There's **a story of a pet in need**. There's a team of staff and volunteers providing exceptional care. And there's an entire organization saying YES to another pet with nowhere else to turn.

I'm thrilled to share these additional highlights of the SPCA's inspiring community impact that you make possible!

### This past year you:

- Provided emergency rescue for pets evacuated from coastal animal shelters flooded by storms.
- Provided disaster relief and ongoing, collaborative help for overcrowded area animal shelters.
- Kept pets and families together by leading the distribution of pet food and pet supplies to partner groups throughout NC.
- Provided children the chance to learn from and connect with shelter animals through community initiatives.

And I'm especially grateful for your support in 2019 as we continue to provide innovative solutions to meet our community's needs. **Without you and your generous support of the SPCA, these critical needs would go unmet.** I am truly grateful to count you as our partner in this lifesaving work!

Warmly,

Kim Janzen  
President and CEO



Kim Janzen, SPCA President and CEO, takes a moment to visit Howard, a recently rescued shelter pup.



# 2018 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.

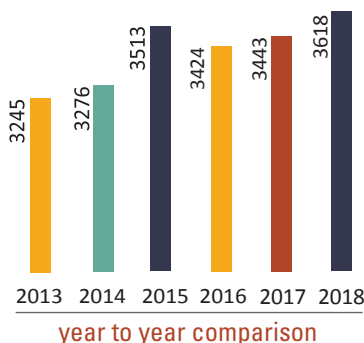
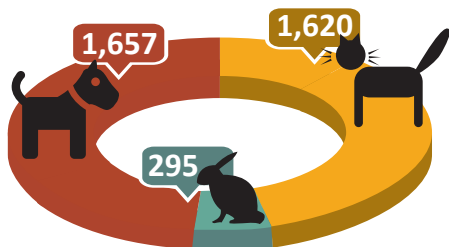
– Mondy Lamb, VP of Philanthropy  
mlamb@spcawake.org or 919.532.2086



## 3,618 LIVE OUTCOMES

- 3,572 animals adopted
- 40 returned to owner
- 6 transferred to partner groups

adoptions by species



## 975

## ANIMALS FOSTERED

270 volunteer foster families cared for young, injured or elderly animals through the SPCA's Foster Care Program.



## 5,202 ANIMALS SPAYED/NEUTERED

- 3,916 pets altered through the low-cost Saving Lives Clinic
- 1,286 pets altered through the spay/neuter voucher program

## 55,361 FIXES!

Number of pets spayed/neutered through the Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Clinic since its opening in 2009



# 10

YEARS  
\*\*\* ANNIVERSARY \*\*\*

Celebrating a decade of community service at the Saving Lives Clinic, and the **371,481** animal births prevented that likely would have needed shelter services



## 4,958 REQUESTS FOR HELP ANSWERED

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



## 1,551 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers gave 49,917 hours, equivalent to 24 full-time employees



## CAT TALES READING PROGRAM

# 132

Children whose confidence in reading improved through reading out loud in front of the judgment-free audience of affectionate shelter cats, dogs, and bunnies



## 25,550 MEALS PROVIDED

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

## OTHER ANIMAL OUTCOMES

The SPCA started 2018 with 199 animals in our care and took in an additional 3,717 animals throughout the year. Out of this total:

- 3,618 were live outcomes (see top of page)
- 25 died and 31 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.
- 242 were still in our care on 12-31-18

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



\*Expenses:  
90.2% goes to programs and program support  
9.8% goes to fundraising

\*source: FY18 990 Tax Return

Princess is excited to greet guests after an exciting round of playtime with Callie the dog at the SPCA Pet Adoption Center.

# THIS PRINCESS SAVES HERSELF, AND HAS FUN ALONG THE WAY

## CONQUERING DRAGONS THROUGH PLAYTIME

**I**t doesn't take long for a droopy-eyed hound dog, like Princess, to melt hearts at the SPCA. But unlike other canines in the shelter, Princess didn't return the affection that staff and volunteers lavished on her.

**It quickly became clear that this tri-colored, floppy-eared dog had some hidden dragons holding her captive.** It was heartbreaking to see Princess shy away from the humans wanting to help her. Even something as simple as having her photo taken was terrifying.

Princess struggled to adjust to life at the SPCA. Though the SPCA staff works hard to bring comfort to the pets in our care,

many factors are out of our control. The strange smells, loud noises, different species, and a continually rotating cast of human caregivers would be stressful for any pet. But for a painfully shy dog like Princess, it was excruciating.

### Defeating Her Dragons

Meanwhile, Tiffany Henry, Animal Care Supervisor at the Pet Adoption Center, was problem-solving for Princess. Tiffany thought a fellow canine buddy might help, but the new dog introductions had to be done just right to set the pair up for a successful friendship.

Tiffany selected a potential playmate. Then, with fellow animal care teammates, she



At the SPCA Adoption Center: Tiffany takes a moment to pet Princess after playtime.

## CARING FOR THEIR WELLBEING

Dogs are naturally social beings, and they typically enjoy interacting with one another.

Playtime with other dogs can be essential for our shelter dogs. Playgroups provide them with physical, mental, and emotional stimulation that helps keep them healthy. Activities that keep pets mentally and physically active are crucial to the wellbeing of all our shelter pets at the SPCA.

Opportunities to play with other dogs help create happy dogs. And happy dogs are more likely to be chosen for adoption.

### MOLLY STONE

*Animal Behaviorist and Director of Community Initiatives at the SPCA.*

gradually let the dogs move and wiggle more and more, all while keeping a close eye on their body language. Tiffany let go of the leash, and the change in the shy dog was immediate.

Princess, with her new playmate, jumped, rolled, and play bowed. She held back nothing and finally waved her hound-dog flag high. The confidence boost also helped her break through her shyness barrier with people. Finally, the SPCA team got to see the true Princess, the happy girl that had been locked away.

## A Happy Ending

On a recent day, a family came looking for a new companion who could also be a great playmate for their current dog.

They wanted to adopt a dog who enjoyed playing but wouldn't be scared of their dog's rough-and-tumble play style. As soon as the request was made, our team knew Princess was a perfect choice.

## Playing for Life

SPCA staff is dedicated to ensuring playtime is an essential

part of the day for shelter dogs at both SPCA facilities. One 30-minute play session provides an outlet for energy and helps dogs stay happy and healthy.

Play is important because happy dogs spend fewer days at the SPCA waiting for a home. Their shorter stay allows us to save more lives of animals with nowhere else to turn. And saving more pets makes everyone happy! 🐾

## BEHIND THE SCENES:

Check out videos of playgroup fun @ [facebook.com/SPCAwake](https://facebook.com/SPCAwake)



Ryan Nickason,  
Animal Care  
Supervisor  
at the SPCA  
Admission  
Center



"BECAUSE DOGS ARE COMPANION ANIMALS, THEY ENJOY SOCIALIZATION JUST LIKE WE DO AS HUMANS. PLAYGROUPS ARE A FUN WAY THEY CAN GET THEIR ENERGY OUT."

**RYAN NICKASON**  
ANIMAL CARE  
SUPERVISOR



Princess and Callie romp in the SPCA's play yard. This is fun way to get their energy out!



Princess and Callie welcome a third member to their playgroup party.




"WE LEARN SO MUCH ABOUT OUR SHELTER DOGS WHEN THEY PLAY. THE MORE INFORMATION WE CAN PROVIDE ADOPTERS, THE EASIER IT IS FOR THESE DOGS TO FIND HOMES!"

**TIFFANY HENRY**  
ANIMAL CARE  
SUPERVISOR



Tiffany Henry,  
Animal Care  
Supervisor  
at the SPCA  
Adoption  
Center



Hugo, a cat rescued by the SPCA of Wake County wakes up after his neuter surgery.

# SNIP! SNIP! HOORAY!

## PREVENTION REMAINS OUR BEST STRATEGY

**A**ny health care professional will back us up on this: Prevention is the most efficient approach to disease control.

Viewing prevention as **the most cost-effective and the most humane** method for ending the euthanasia of healthy pets in area animal shelters has been the strategy of the SPCA, and our dedicated partners, for the past 25 years.

The SPCA's spay/neuter voucher program, a collaboration with local veterinarians, was founded in 1994. And the SPCA's low-cost effort through the Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Clinic celebrated 10 years in January with 55,361 "fixes." Now, a grant provided by PetSmart

Charities® has helped launch the next phase of the SPCA's community spay/neuter services. The grant funds a pilot project to identify pet owners in need and to connect them with deeply discounted spay/neuter services, in this case, \$5 per surgery. The project is titled, Snip! Snip! Hooray!

Offering low-cost spay/neuter services is crucial to reaching the pet owners most at risk for letting their pets reproduce. In both national and local surveys, the cost of spay/neuter surgery is consistently listed as the main reason why people choose not to alter their pets. The uncontrolled breeding of owned pets and stray animals creates a huge number of

unwanted animals that are killed by the thousands each year in North Carolina animal shelters — 12,000 pets were euthanized just in Wake and contiguous counties in 2017.

One of the participants in the new pilot project is Geri G., head of a small nonprofit in Lee County that focuses efforts on helping feral cats. She was thrilled to receive 15 vouchers to cover the cost of feline spay/neuter surgeries. Like many other community cat caretakers, Geri has limited options for spay/neuter services for feral cats. The grant-funded project is providing deeply discounted services while also surveying how best to meet the broader community needs for these services in the future. 🐾

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

REMEMBER THESE HEADLINE-MAKING STORIES IN 2018?  
WELL, WE DID SOME DIGGING . . .

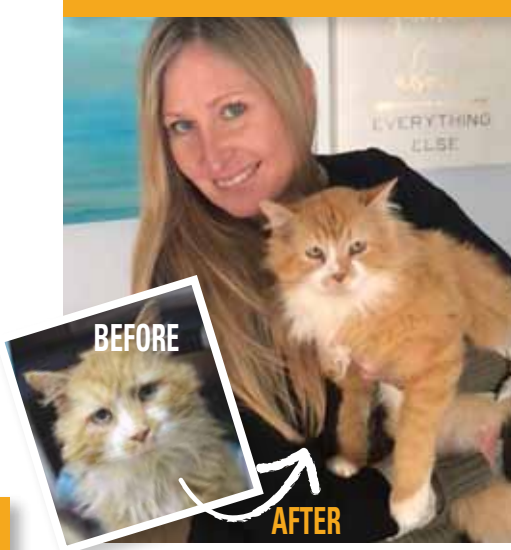
**W**e believe all our adoptable pets are superstars. We see all kinds of pets arrive at our Admission Center. Each of these pets has a story to tell.

Though we try our best to speak “Dog Language” or “Cat Language,” sometimes we are just lost in translation. We don’t always know the back stories or histories of the adoptable pets in our care.

We just know they’re at the SPCA, they are safe and we will do whatever we can to give them a second chance.

**The four pets listed below made headlines in 2018.** A few of their stories were seen on world-wide media! It got our team thinking; where are they now? So we did some digging and adopters sent us these updated photos!

## TOBY | WALKED 12 MILES



Toby’s family gave him to another family, but he walked 12 miles back to his original home. His family then took him to a local shelter and asked that he be euthanized.

Instead, he received a second chance at the SPCA, and his story went viral all over the world.

## NASH | FOUND IN SWAMP



Nash was just a few weeks old when a woman found him tied to a tree in a swamp in September.

He had a wound around his neck from the wire and received the emergency vet care he needed and a foster home through the SPCA.

## SOPHIE | BUNNYMILL VICTIM




Sophie came to us after being rescued from a breeding operation. Photos of the conditions where the bunnies were kept received a lot of attention on social media.

## ELVIS PARSLEY | GUINEA PIG



It’s easy to see why Elvis Parsley was so popular. This guinea pig created a massive wave of #hairenvyy on Instagram.

A photograph of two cats sitting in a bed of straw. On the left is a black cat with yellow eyes, looking towards the camera. On the right is a white cat with orange patches, also looking towards the camera. A chain-link fence is visible in the background.

Grayson and Butters are two examples of happy, healthy, outdoor cats.

# A HOPE FOR CATS WITH NOWHERE TO TURN

HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CATS SAVED IN NORTH CAROLINA'S ANIMAL SHELTERS - BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

**W**e've all been there, you drive to a restaurant or store and see there is a cat, or cats sitting contently by the dumpster, or eating yummy food scraps off the concrete. This was the unorthodox life of two street-savvy cats named RK and Prim.

This duo lived happily together outside. **They chased bugs, ate food scraps and snuggled together in cozy nooks and crannies** they found around the restaurant's dumpster.

**They were happy, healthy and hated being close to people.**

Most domestic cats will tolerate human interaction, some cats even enjoy it, and some even crave human affection. Then there are cats like Prim and RK. They were never socialized by humans as kittens, and prefer to be admired from afar. They didn't appreciate human interaction at all.

A kind-hearted worker at the restaurant loved them, fed them, but also worried about them. The restaurant that RK and Prim called home was near a busy

road. For their own safety, she trapped them with humane cat traps, and arranged to bring them to the SPCA for placement.

The SPCA knew these two cats would be fantastic mousers on a farm, or in a warehouse, or garden shed somewhere away from bustling traffic and busy roads. **They just needed their space, and a chance.**

The SPCA worked to spay and neuter RK and Prim, and kept them in mind for adoption; with hopes to find them a barn or warehouse with a mouse problem.

### THERE'S A CAT FOR THAT PROGRAM WAS CREATED WITH TWO GOALS:

- To promote the adoption of cats that will do best in an atypical home
- To encourage out-of-the-box thinking to discover other ways a person might provide a home to a cat in need

#### There's a Cat for That

Like people, cats come in a variety of shapes, sizes and personalities. While many are suited to a traditional indoor home, there are others who simply do not fit the mold. There are cats that want little to no contact with people. Or there are cats that never seemed to grasp how a litter box is used. Some cats just crave more mental and physical stimulation than life in a house can provide.

Frequently, these maverick felines fail in the shelter system. Cats who avoid human interaction are known as "feral cats." These cats are easily stressed by being near humans, some become frustrated and aggressive, and those with litter box problems are deemed unwanted. Typically a shelter's limited resources are not spent on unwanted or aggressive cats.

#### From Surviving to Thriving

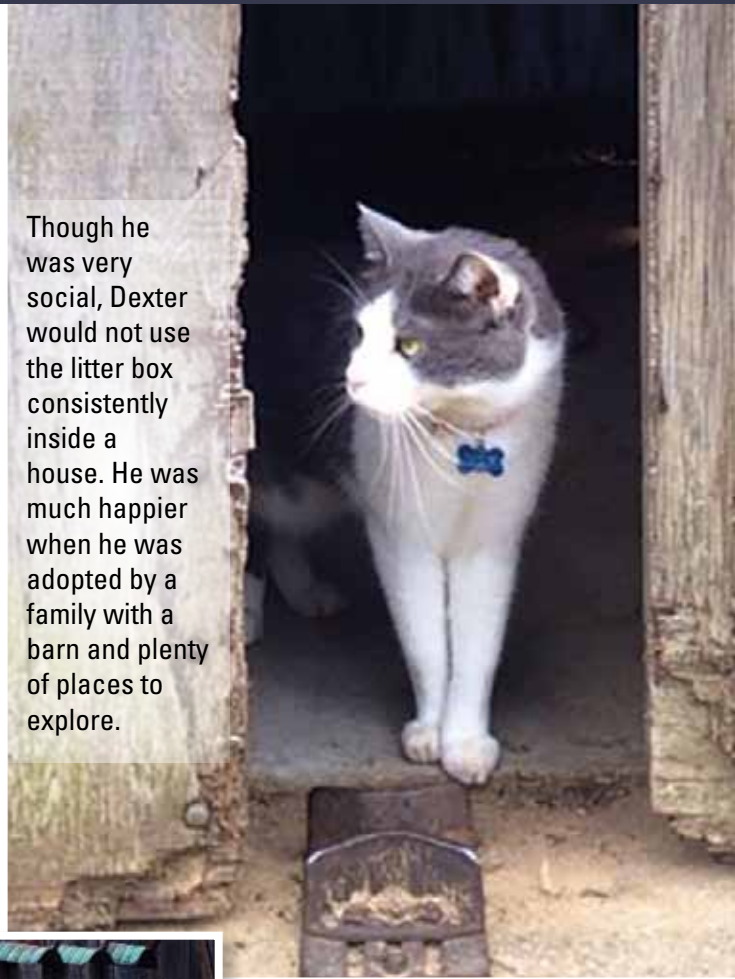
A few weeks after RK and Prim's situation was brought to our attention, a family came to the SPCA looking for a pair of outdoor cats. They had a piece of land away from major roads. This family had a mouse problem and needed help!

Because of your support, **cats like RK and Prim have the second chance they need.** They are not deemed as unadoptable, or dangerous. Because of your support, they now have the outlet they need to find the right situation to thrive!

Though it may not fit the traditional definition of "home," **right now RK and Prim are snuggled together in a barn** on a large track of land. They run and chase bugs together, bask in the sun and live their independent lives away from busy roads. This just shows you, at the SPCA, whatever your situation, we believe there's a cat for that.



Though he was very social, Dexter would not use the litter box consistently inside a house. He was much happier when he was adopted by a family with a barn and plenty of places to explore.



**ABOVE:** Dexter, a cat who's life was saved by the progressive ideas of "There's a Cat for That" Program

**LEFT:** Dexter spends his days chasing bugs around the farm.

**BELOW:** Did you spot the orange tabby on the hay bale? Barn homes offer plenty of enrichment and hiding!



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[www.CareFirstAnimalHospital.com](http://www.CareFirstAnimalHospital.com)



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keep all its balls in the air.

# YOU ARE INVITED

Join the SPCA of Wake County in our work to save homeless pets.

There are endless ways for you to give back. Find one that's right for you and get involved today!



## VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are the heart of the SPCA. More than 1,500 extraordinary individuals generously give their time to help. Volunteer opportunities are available to work with the shelter animals, or help with administrative tasks, outreach events and more! We love our volunteers!

[spcawake.org/volunteer](http://spcawake.org/volunteer)



## PARTICIPATE

Are you or your family looking to have fun while helping homeless pets? Is your business looking for meaningful employee engagement or brand recognition? Get involved with an SPCA event! **Contact Amy at [acrum@spcawake.org](mailto:acrum@spcawake.org) or 919-532-2082!**

### Dog Walk 2019

Saturday, April 27  
Koka Booth, Cary

### Fur Ball 2019

Saturday, October 12  
Angus Barn Pavilion, Raleigh

### Santa Paws 5K 2019

Sunday, November 17  
Dix Park, Raleigh



## DONATE

Your kindness today will save pets now and long into the future. Your support is critical because the SPCA of Wake County is a local non-profit that does not receive funding from the ASPCA.

Animals in need rely on people like you, who care about animals to save them! **More: visit [spcawake.org/donate](http://spcawake.org/donate) or call our donor care team at 919-532-2083 or 919-532-7065**

**THANK YOU TO THESE  
BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT  
OF THE 2018 SANTA PAWS 5K!**

THE Greens  
AT TRYON  
APARTMENT HOMES



WAKE VETERINARY HOSPITAL  
& URGENT CARE

REDFIN



REUNION  
Marketing

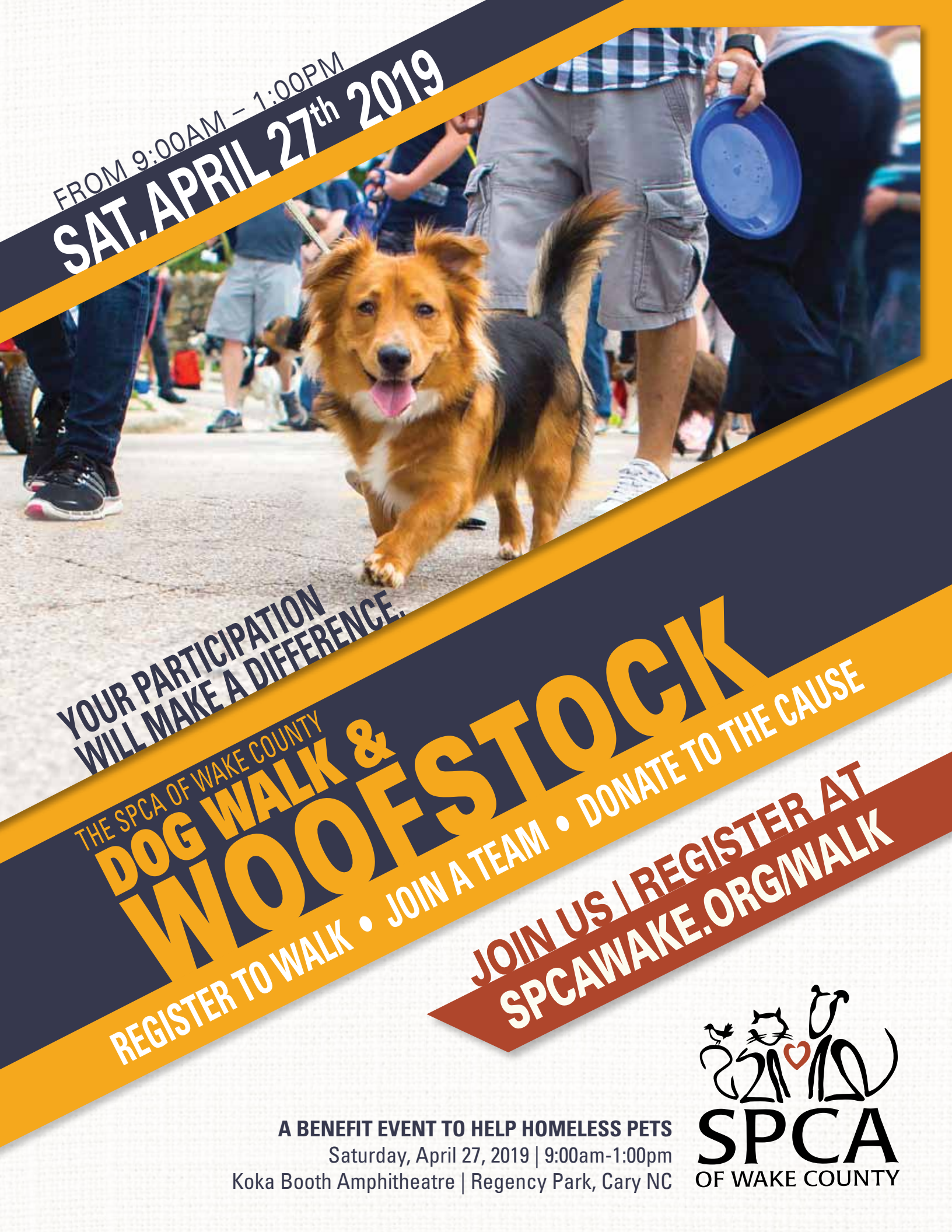


## MAKE YOUR BIRTHDAY COUNT! (FOR THE ANIMALS)

Did you know you can help homeless pets using Facebook? Facebook fundraisers are an easy and fun way to make a difference by raising money to change the lives of homeless pets through the SPCA of Wake County. **Start a virtual fundraiser on Facebook for your birthday.** Share with friends and family why you support the SPCA of Wake County and ask them to help you make a difference with a donation online. Learn more at [SPCAwake.org/friends](http://SPCAwake.org/friends).



FROM 9:00AM – 1:00PM  
**SAT. APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> 2019**



**YOUR PARTICIPATION  
WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

THE SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

# **DOG WALK & WOOFESTOCK**

**REGISTER TO WALK • JOIN A TEAM • DONATE TO THE CAUSE**  
**JOIN US | REGISTER AT  
SPCAWAKE.ORG/WALK**

**A BENEFIT EVENT TO HELP HOMELESS PETS**  
Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 9:00am-1:00pm  
Koka Booth Amphitheatre | Regency Park, Cary NC

