

# CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE  
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2019

## FOCUS ON FELINES

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JOIN US ONLINE AT [SPCAWAKE.ORG](http://SPCAWAKE.ORG)

Ellie, a rescued puppy, eagerly chomps on a squeaky ball while her new family fills out adoption paperwork.

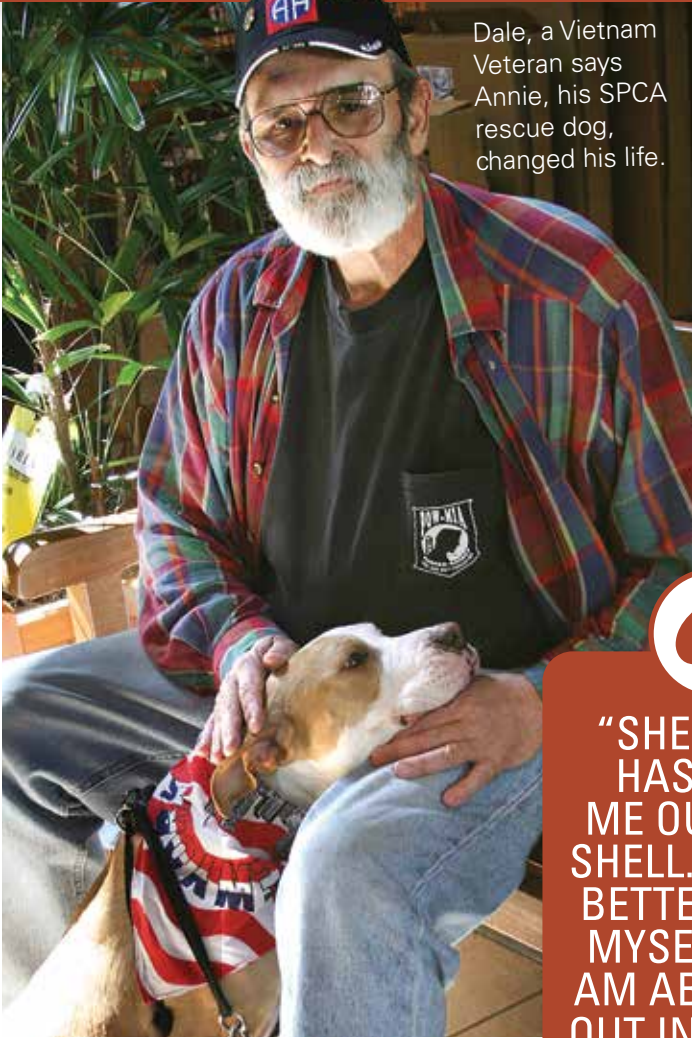
**NEW!**

## REACHING OUT TO VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES!

Offering special outreach & adoption opportunities as a way of showing our appreciation.

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# THANKING SERVICE MEMBERS PAST & PRESENT



Dale, a Vietnam Veteran says Annie, his SPCA rescue dog, changed his life.

**D**ale has seen a lot through the years. As a Vietnam veteran he proudly served this country. However the transition back to his civilian life was not easy.

Wounded in service, Dale lived a life full of darkness and scars. He endured painful medical treatments, which he describes as, "Things that made you want to hide in the closet."

## Enter Annie, an Abandoned Pit Bull Mix

Annie, is a mixed-breed dog who suffered heart-wrenching cruelty. She was shot by neighbors, abandoned by her owners, and left alone to battle a life-threatening disease known as heartworms.

“

**"SHE (ANNIE) HAS TAKEN ME OUT OF MY SHELL. SO I FEEL BETTER ABOUT MYSELF, AND I AM ABLE TO GO OUT IN PUBLIC."**

**DALE H.  
Vietnam Veteran**

## The Day Their Worlds Met

The day Dale walked through the SPCA Adoption Center doors, fate would change their lives forever.

Annie needed a hero, and Dale was there to answer the call. "I thought we had a lot in common," said Dale when he heard about Annie's past. Without a second thought, Dale filled out the adoption paperwork.

## Two Heroes Made For Each Other

Today Annie has drastically improved Dale's life, reducing his depression and giving him hope, at the same time Annie has the love she always needed.

## ANNIE MEET DALE -- DALE MEET ANNIE

The day Dale walked into the shelter, he found a companion who loves him unconditionally and will never leave his side.

"Annie has taken me out of my shell, so I can actually feel better about myself," says Dale. Because of Annie, Dale has reclaimed his life, and together they finally can look forward to the future. 🐾

## NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

The SPCA is grateful for the military families that have made sacrifices for our country and community. To thank military families and veterans the SPCA is actively engaging military members and veterans so they too can experience the joy and companionship of having a pet at home.

**As a way to give back, and thank those who serve our country, the SPCA now offers an adoption discount, as well as a number of other special opportunities for service members past and present.**



**TO READ MORE ABOUT THE SPCA'S MILITARY DISCOUNTS AND SERVICES, VISIT [SPCAWAKE.ORG/MILITARY](https://www.spcawake.org/military)**



# A DOG ON THE OUTSIDE A HERO ON THE INSIDE

EMILY SAVED HER LIFE,  
REBEL'S RETURNING THE FAVOR

Emily woke up on the cold concrete floor. She had scratches on her face and was rolled on her side. But there was a familiar softness and feeling of safety, then a wet tongue to the cheek.

**She had just had a seizure. And her dog Rebel saved her life.**

Just a few minutes before, Rebel, a Plott-Hound mix, was upstairs in her crate on the opposite side of the house. She sensed what Emily could not. Rebel broke out of her crate and ran to the garage.

"She turned me to my side and got me face down so I wouldn't choke on spit," Emily remembers. "I woke up and she was underneath my head on the concrete floor."

## The Dog She Didn't Know She Needed

Emily was diagnosed with seizures when she was just five years old. They were under control for a while, but started to get worse after high school. Around the same time, Emily came to the SPCA of Wake County in search of a best friend.



Rebel's puppy photo at the SPCA.

"I wasn't looking for a service dog. I was just looking for a best friend. I wasn't even connected with her at first, but she was," says Emily about Rebel's adoption day.

"I didn't even feel a connection with her at first, but she was. She knew she wanted me. And I couldn't go anywhere without her. She would follow me everywhere and I embraced it."

When Emily's epilepsy got worse, her doctor suggested a training program to teach Rebel how to detect oncoming seizures. Emily was skeptical, but gave it a try.

Immediately, Rebel responded and they completed their training after a year and a half of intense work. "Even before she was trained, she could tell. Now looking back, I see that she was barking to warn me," says Emily.



Rebel never leaves Emily's side.

Because of your support, connections like Emily and Rebel are made everyday at the SPCA.



"I AM TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE HER IN MY LIFE. THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY TIMES SHE HAS SAVED MY LIFE."

**EMILY, REBEL'S OWNER**

#### Rebel with a Cause

Now, Rebel is able to detect when Emily is going to have a seizure about 15 minutes before it happens. She has a distinct high-pitch bark. Emily says her own body doesn't give her a warning until a few minutes before.

This allows her to find a quiet place to sit or lay down, or pull over if she is driving and call somebody to help her. Rebel even has a special device to call 911 and knows how to open the door for emergency responders.

"I am truly blessed to have her. There's no telling how many times she has saved my life," adds Emily.

New research published in Scientific Reports offers some evidence that a dog's sense of smell may help them detect seizures, but there is no definitive link.

For Emily she has all the proof she needs to know her dog is her life-saver. 🐾

## SANTA PAWS 5K EVENT

### SAVE THE DATE

### NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Lace up, grab that ugly Christmas sweater, and bring your dog and your running/walking friends!

#### The Santa Paws 5K & One-Mile Fun Run/Walk

is the largest, dog-friendly, certified 5K in the Triangle. Plus, post-race pet photos with our Celebrity Santa!

**WHEN:** November 17, 2019

**WHERE:** Dortehea Dix Park

**WHY:** *Kick-off the holidays and help animals get the care they deserve.*

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

For sponsorship opportunities contact Amy Crum at [acrum@spcawake.org](mailto:acrum@spcawake.org).

Get your pet's Santa costumes ready!



Have your pet's photo taken with Santa!



# NO LONGER THE END OF THE ROAD FOR FIV+ FELINES

A NEW DAY AND A NEW WAY FOR FIV+ CATS



Elsa has a future to look forward to, because **people like you believe in her!**

*Elsa is the type of cat you can easily imagine lounging on an oriental rug or a plush, pink cat bed. She is striking with her long, white fur and beautiful, blue eyes.*

**I**t's a little harder to imagine a cat like Elsa emerging from the woods behind someone's house, but that is just where a Goldsboro woman found Elsa earlier this year. She was hungry and covered in fleas. The woman took her to a vet where she was spayed, vaccinated, and treated for fleas. During her vet visit, Elsa tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus, or FIV.

## The End of the Road?

Though FIV is contagious to other cats, it is not easily spread. Disease transmission occurs mainly through bite wounds. Cats with FIV can be vulnerable to infections due to a suppressed immune system, but can still live long, healthy



Your support allows cats like Elsa, once stigmatized for being FIV+, to live the life they deserve.

lives. Despite all this, many animal shelters will not make FIV positive cats available for adoption.

The woman who found Elsa knew cats with this disease can still live normal lives. She brought Elsa back to her home while she searched for someone to adopt her.

Almost six weeks after Elsa was found, she was still in need of a permanent home. One of the finder's friends reached out to the SPCA of Wake County. She wondered if Elsa might have a better chance finding a home in Raleigh and asked if the SPCA accepted cats with FIV.

## Only a Minor Detour

Staff was happy to tell her that at the SPCA, there is an entire room on the adoption floor devoted to finding good homes for cats with FIV. In 2018, more than 50 FIV positive cats were adopted through the SPCA's adoption program. We are optimistic that this number will be even greater in 2019.

## The Life Cats like Elsa Deserve

Elsa was brought to the SPCA the next day. Once she settled in, Elsa would sit by the window to her room and meow at visitors to ask them to come in and see her. When they did (because who can resist that), she would purr and rub up against their legs. Elsa may have a life-long disease, but she clearly wanted a family just as much as any other cat. She was adopted three weeks after arriving at the SPCA.



## MEET MAC THE CAT

### AN FIV+ CAT WHO WOULDN'T GIVE UP

When Mac arrived at one of the SPCA's valued shelter transfer partners. He had a few strikes against him. Not only was he FIV positive, but he also needed serious medical attention.

Staff noted that his paw pads were abraded, as if he had been exposed to a hot surface or caustic material. The shelter didn't have the capacity to help him, so Mac was transferred to the SPCA so he could receive the care and resources he needed quickly.

During his exam, SPCA medical staff found that pads on all four of his paws were infected and bleeding. On one paw, a piece of the pad was completely gone. **We can only imagine the pain Mac was in, but through it all, remained friendly and easy to handle.** He approached anyone who looked like they might offer attention.

Mac was put on pain medications to make him more comfortable. He was later sedated so his paws could be soaked and cleaned. Thanks to you, Mac's wounds have healed and he's ready to find a new best friend to take him home.

#### **All of this is because of you!**

Your support is the reason cats like Elsa and Mac have a place to go. **It means FIV is just a detour instead of the end of the road.** Most importantly, it means Elsa can finally get her plush, pink cat bed and Mac will soon fall asleep at the foot of his new family's bed. Because you believe in these cats, they have a future to look forward to! 🐾

## FUR BALL GALA EVENT

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**OCTOBER 12, 2019**

**Black ties. Fine dining.**  
**Exceptional company.**  
**All for a life-saving cause.**

Join us for the Fur Ball Gala  
October 12th in Raleigh.

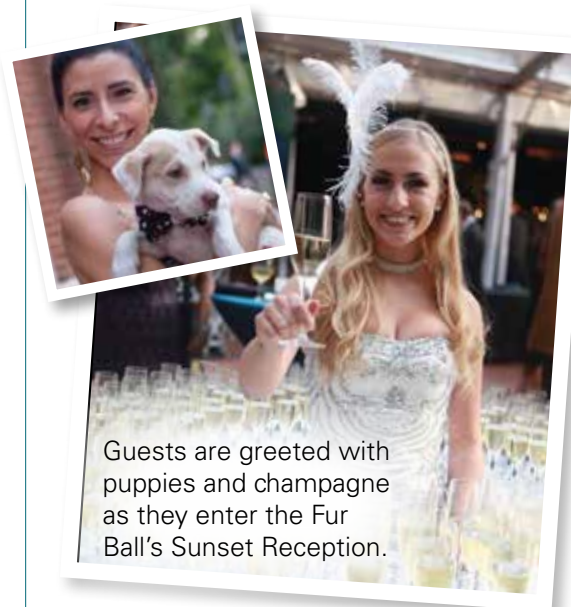
Enjoy a sunset reception as  
well as a silent and live auction  
featuring luxury travel and one-  
of-a-kind experiences.

Saving the lives of animals has  
never been so rewarding.

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 12th  
**WHERE:** Pavilion at the Angus Barn  
**WHY:** *Make a larger impact in the  
lives of homeless pets!*

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

For tickets and sponsorship  
opportunities contact Amy Crum  
at [acrum@spcawake.org](mailto:acrum@spcawake.org).





# THEIR STORIES WILL NOT END LIKE THEY BEGAN

YOU ARE CHANGING  
NARRITVES EVERYDAY

**B**efore we begin, these stories are not here to break your heart. We're not going to tell you sad stories. That's not what we're about. We're about hope and gratitude. Though the stories here could easily break us down, we're going to reclaim their narratives. Instead of allowing our hearts to break, we've decided to only feel gratitude and love for the opportunity to save these pets. How amazing is it to have a chance like this?

## 1) Chip, almost starved to death

When our team first saw Chip, it was clear we needed to help. He was so skinny you could see each one of his ribs. Our veterinary team noted he was 25 to 30 pounds underweight for a dog his size. His soulful, brown eyes told us he had more life to live. **And because of your support**, he is slowly gaining weight and his spark is slowly returning under the watchful eyes of our veterinary team.



1.  
CHIP

Chip was very emaciated the day he was rescued. He was losing hope with each day that passed.

## 2) Susan, a small kitten with a valiant heart

When Susan the kitten was only a few weeks old, she experienced the unimaginable. Her tiny body was thrown out of a moving vehicle on of Raleigh's busiest roads. As cars rushed by she held onto her breath and onto her life. One wrong move and her story would end tragically. **But it doesn't, Susan's story continues miraculously.** Someone saw the tiny kitten curled up on the curb after seeing her thrown from a car's window. Knowing she needed help fast, she was brought to the SPCA. When Susan's rescuer needed help, **your gifts opened our doors.**



2.  
SUSAN



3.  
TODD



4.  
RANDY



5.  
CLAY

#### BECAUSE OF YOU, THESE STORIES WILL NOT END LIKE THEY BEGAN:

1. **CHIP** was found as a stray, very emaciated. He lost hope as each day passed.
2. **SUSAN** was thrown from a moving vehicle on a busy road.
3. **TODD** is a Great Dane puppy who wasn't allowed to grow.
4. **RANDY** was found covered in filth, living with dozens of dogs in a small house.
5. **CLAY** was left to starve to death after his family thought he had cancer.

#### 3) Todd the Great Dane puppy

As a giant-breed puppy, Todd was not given the space he needed for his bones to adequately grow. After a veterinary exam, it was determined he suffered from malnutrition and was likely **confined in a small pen or crate his whole life**. With no room for his bones to grow properly, he suffered from a skeletal disorder. Though he will likely need ongoing care as he grows, because you believe in the work of the SPCA, we were able to find him a loving family who understands his needs!

#### 4) Randy, a victim of hoarding

Recently the SPCA received an urgent call from a valued shelter partner. There were several small breed dogs living in deplorable conditions, some with life-threatening injuries. It was a hoarding case, and the dogs needed help – fast. Upon arrival at the SPCA, the dogs were evaluated by the SPCA's medical team and given baths. **The dogs had a strong odor of urine and matted hair.** Randy and the other dogs rescued received the care and medical attention they needed because of compassionate supporters of the SPCA.

## YOUR ROLE IN FLIPPING THE STORY



### THE ROLE YOU PLAY...

Instead of allowing our hearts to break, this is where your support changes everything. **Because of you**, we feel only gratitude and love for the opportunity to save these pets. How amazing is it to have that chance?

Every human or pet that walks through these doors is touched and changed because of caring people like you. And for that we are grateful!

**These stories would only be sad if you and the SPCA were not part of them.** But you are and because of you, Chip, Susan, Todd, Randy and Clay are alive and thriving today. These stories are not to break your heart -- they are stories to **fill it up**.

#### 5) Clay, starved and left to die

Clay's story is probably one you've never heard before. His owners thought he had cancer so **they stopped feeding him, thinking it would help him die faster**. Luckily, he was surrendered to a local animal hospital. At the time he weighed just 43 pounds. Even after running special tests, the veterinarian was unable to find any cancer. She gave Clay dewormers, fed him high-quality food, and treated him for heartworm disease. About a month later, Clay had gained almost 20 pounds. He's now a happy, healthy yellow lab who has many games of fetch to look forward to in the years to come. 🐾



# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TODAY

**WHAT WE DO:  
WE SAVE ANIMALS. WE HELP PEOPLE.**

Dear Reader,

For many of the 11,000 animals the SPCA helped in 2018, we made the difference between life and death. For the thousands of people we helped, we were an answer to a prayer.

**You and your ongoing support are absolutely essential to everything we do.**

Why? We do not receive any federal, state or local tax dollars. We are not affiliated with, nor do we receive funding from the ASPCA, in New York. The SPCA of Wake County relies on donations to save animals and to help people. We work locally, so your gift will stay here and have a local impact.

You make everything happen. Without your generous support, our community's critical animal needs will go unmet. **I'm asking for your generous support today.** Animal's lives are on the line.

Any gift of any amount helps so much. We can accept many types of gifts, including the following which may be an option for you! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or our donor care team, to work with you on a gift to help the animals. I'd love to share you with examples of how your gift translates into saving pets' lives.

**With tremendous gratitude,**

Mondy Lamb

VP of Philanthropy

(919) 532-2086 | email: [mlamb@spcawake.org](mailto:mlamb@spcawake.org)



## **DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAFs)**

You can make a gift to us through your DAF! The SPCA is adept at working with advisors to accept DAF distributions and apply them to high impact programming. Sometimes donors who establish donor-advised funds postpone decisions about which charities receive a gift. We need you now! Please recommend the SPCA as a distributee tax id # 56-0891732

## **STOCKS**

Donating appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds to the SPCA is quick and easy! You receive gift credit and an immediate income tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities on the date of transfer. Plus you pay no capital gains tax on the securities you donate. To transfer stock: visit [spcawake.org/stocks](http://spcawake.org/stocks)

## **INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRAS)**

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can give out of your IRA. In fact, the IRS requires people to start withdrawing money from their IRAs when they reach that age. Donations from an IRA to the SPCA can satisfy that requirement and help avoid IRS penalties; donors can make gifts of up to \$100,000 from their IRAs annually.



The beer's label had the winner's dog, Katie, on it but the name of the beer comes from what Katie is known for, her beautiful big ears and gorgeous blonde coat.

**Katie, a rescue dog** owned by Laura Kneavel and Mike Worsham won the honor in 2019!

# BEER AND BRAGGING RIGHTS

## RAISE \$14,200 FOR HOMELESS PETS

Nickelpoint Brewing Company, located in the Five Points Raleigh, is known for its quality craft beers and brewing. They are also known as benefactors of pets in need with their Big Ear Blonde.

The beer is named after, and the label features rescue dog Mike, two SPCA supporters who won the honor to "make" the 2018 Fur Ball charity auction. Nickelpoint Brewing hosted the auction for Katie and the beer. Fans of beer, and rescued dogs, like the beer and appreciated crisp blonde ale.

10% of all sales from Big Ear Blonde are donated back to the SPCA.

Locally you can find Big Ear Blonde on tap at the Nickelpoint Umstead Hotel Bar. It's available for purchase at the Harris Teeter or Lowe's Foods on Tryon, both in Cary.

If the Harris Teeter or Lowe's Foods most convenient to you, just ask the customer service desk and they can order it for you.

Nickelpoint is currently working on a second custom beer, Rocky, with the launch party this October 19. Check spca.org for more info.



SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

### DOG WALK & WOOFSTOCK

PHOTO: TRAVIS NOFTLE

## THANK YOU SPONSORS



- Pandadea Photography
- Banfield Pet Hospital
- Merck Animal Health
- Unleashed: The Dog & Cat Store
- Leads Nearby
- Team Triangle Realty
- Fluff
- Harenhaus K-9 Dog and Handler Training

- Chris Thurow - MetLife Auto & Home
- CBRE Commercial Real Estate
- Reunion Marketing
- Springboard Promotions
- Jenny Winston Photography
- Jennifer LaGrange Photography
- Cognizant





# Give in Honor or in Memory of a Loved One

Create a lasting tribute gift with an engraved brick or paver installed in the Legacy Walk outside the SPCA's Pet Adoption Center



**YOUR MESSAGE  
ENGRAVED HERE**

The SPCA's Legacy Walk welcomes guests as they enter the Adoption Center.

## TRIBUTE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

A tribute gift can be a thoughtful way to honor or remember a beloved family member, good friend or cherished companion animal. Tribute gifts include engraved bricks and pavers placed in the SPCA Legacy Walk and engraved leaves placed on the SPCA Pet Adoption Center Tree of Life.

### Tribute Giving - The SPCA's Legacy Walk

Give a gift in honor or in memory and we will send a letter acknowledging your thoughtful gesture, mailed to the person you designate.

**Engraved 4"x 8" Brick: \$200**

**Engraved 8"x 8" Paver: \$500**

### Engraved Leaves on the SPCA's Tree of Life

The SPCA's Tree of Life was created from the remnants of a decommissioned animal control gas chamber.

An engraved leaf on the SPCA's Tree of Life is a beautiful way to create a lasting tribute. Leaves are placed on the Tree of Life inside the SPCA's Pet Adoption Center.

**Engraved Leaf: \$1,000**



**Purchase an Honor or Memorial Gift Today:**

Purchase bricks, pavers or leaves online now at [spcawake.org/tribute](http://spcawake.org/tribute) or contact the SPCA's Donor Care Team at 919-772-2326 ext. 2083 or email [donate@spcawake.org](mailto:donate@spcawake.org)