

# CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE  
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2021

**PURE  
GRATITUDE  
FOR THE  
LIVES YOU  
SAVED**

PAGES 4-7

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**BY THE  
NUMBERS:  
YOUR 2020  
IMPACT  
REPORT**

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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](http://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. Funded by charitable support, we provide vital community programs that pick up where local government agencies leave off. We work in 56 NC 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](http://spcawake.org/adopt)  
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## PRESIDENT & CEO

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## A Note of Gratitude for All You've Made Possible

Dear Friends,

I hope this heartwarming edition of *Critter Chatter Magazine* finds you happy and in good health.

A year ago this March, we closed our doors to the public but remained open by appointment to help pets and people in need. Although the past 12 months have been some of the most challenging in our organization's history, **thanks to your support** we were able to forge new ways to provide help and resources for our community.

When COVID disrupted many of the animal services provided by government agencies, our critical lifesaving role in the region we serve became more important than ever.

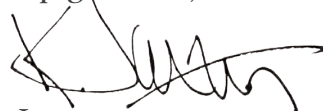
**Your support made all the difference in the world.** You saved homeless pets who had nowhere else to go. You helped vulnerable senior citizens and families in need keep their pets in their homes instead of surrendering them to area animal shelters.

While numbers only tell part of the story of SPCA Wake's impact on our region, I am filled with gratitude as I share the lifesaving results of 2020 (on the facing page) with YOU.

Thank you for your generosity, confidence and trust in our work. **Your investment continues to make a world of difference for pets and people still in crisis.**

Because of your help, SPCA Wake will be there every step of the way.

In deep gratitude,



Kim Janzen  
President & CEO



A letter from SPCA Wake  
President & CEO, Kim Janzen



# 2020 IMPACT REPORT

Behind each number you see below, there's a pet, a person, or a family who felt YOUR support in 2020. You kept families together, made frontline rescue work possible, and saved pets and people in crisis. We are grateful for what YOU make possible. Please let us know if you'd like to learn more!

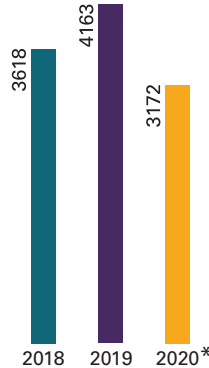
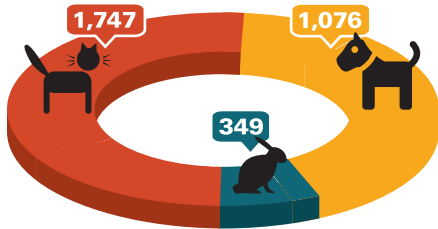
— Mondy Lamb, VP of Philanthropy | contact: mlamb@spcawake.org or 919.532.2086



## 3,190 LIVE OUTCOMES

- 3,172 animals adopted
- 16 returned to owner or TNR'd
- 2 transferred to partner groups

adoptions by species



**ADOPTIONS**  
YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISON

\*2020 impacted by COVID-19

## 1,216 PETS FOSTERED



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

## 56 COUNTIES

In 2020 SPCA Wake worked in 56 NC counties to rescue homeless pets and build collaborative, local partnerships.



## 5,083 ANIMALS SPAYED & NEUTERED

- 3,885 pets altered through the low-cost Saving Lives Clinic
- 1,198 pets altered through the spay/neuter voucher program

## 61,982 FIXES

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

That's **415,908 births prevented** that likely would have needed shelter services.

## 107 HW+ DOGS



received life-saving treatment for Heartworm Disease



## 1,109 VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers generously gave 39,157 hours of their time (equivalent to 18 full-time employees)



## FINANCES 93.2%

93.2% of each donor dollar went to programs & program support with only 6.8% spent on fundraising.\*

SPCA Wake is nationally recognized for responsible financial stewardship and transparency to donors, earning high marks from both Guidestar & Charity Navigator.



\*source: FY20 990 Tax Return

### COVID RELIEF EFFORTS



## 55,602 CALLS FOR HELP ANSWERED

By providing resources and assistance to people, we help keep pets in their homes and out of area animal shelters.



## 83,441 PET MEALS PROVIDED TO FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS IN NEED

- ▶ **48,195** meals provided to pets of homebound senior citizens in need
  - SPCA AniMeals: 29,200 meals • Partnership with Meals on Wheels: 18,995 meals
- ▶ **19,725** pet meals provided to partner groups including the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC for distribution to pet-owning families facing food insecurity
- ▶ **15,521** meals provided to pets of families at risk of surrendering their pet to an animal shelter due to temporary financial hardship

### OTHER ANIMAL OUTCOMES:

- SPCA Wake started 2020 with 220 animals in our care and took in an additional 3,282 animals throughout the year. Out of this total:
- 3,190 were live outcomes (see top of page)
  - 28 died and 32 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.
  - 252 pets were in our care on 12-31-20

# TINY KITTEN RESCUED FROM RUSHING TRAFFIC

At 4 weeks old, Toad weighed just 11 oz when she was rescued.



**A**s cars whizzed by on Highway 401 in mid-June, a tiny kitten cowered alone between the busy lanes. Just in the nick of time, one of the drivers passing by happened to spot the lone kitten and stopped traffic to bring her to safety. **That helpless kitten's fate was transformed that day, and it's all thanks to you.**

Later that morning when the driver brought the kitten to SPCA Wake, we knew we could offer her a second chance. The kitten's tiny size and pronounced overbite quickly earned her a new name: Toad.

Even at just 4 weeks old Toad was incredibly small, **weighing a mere 11 ounces when she first arrived at the SPCA.** Her tiny size raised serious concerns about her health, and she suffered from an upper respiratory infection that would require several weeks of treatment. **Luckily for Toad, your support provided all the care and support it took to save her.**

That afternoon, Toad went into foster care with staff member Emily Muse to recover from her ordeal. Unbeknownst to them, Toad would never have to leave.

“

*“She had already beaten the odds just to get to the SPCA.”*

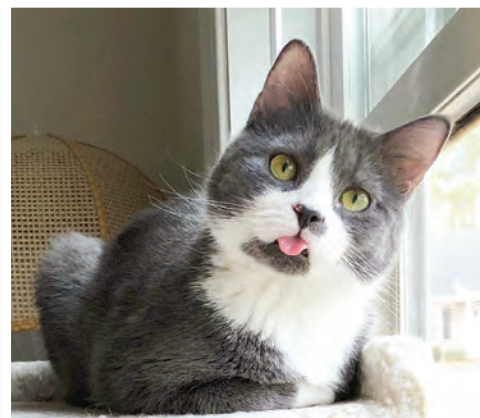
- Emily Muse,  
Toad's adopter

“I put her on hold two days later,” said Muse, smiling. “She had already beaten the odds just to get to the SPCA. I knew she was special.”

Your generous support provided for weeks of medical treatments, and despite all odds, Toad managed to overcome every obstacle she faced. When her adoption day finally came, Muse said it was just the final puzzle piece. “She just fit right in.”

Seven months later, Toad has grown to 10 times the size and her trademark overbite remains. She now lives with three cat siblings, including a kitten her age that Muse jokes acts like a devoted husband.

**“Toad is the perfect little weirdo,” Muse says.** “Of all the cats I've met at the SPCA, there's never been another cat like her.”



Toad seven months later, adopted by her foster mom.



# MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS | 2020

The past year threw curve balls at every turn, but our work never slowed down. Here are some of the incredible things your support made possible in 2020.



- 1 December 23:** Dalton, Connery, and Brosnan are rescued from Harnett County after they were found abandoned in a cold ditch. Each received medical treatment at the SPCA and has since been adopted into a loving home!
- 2 November 13:** Springfield receives special veterinary care having been rescued from a busy road with a broken leg. She is now fully healed and living with her new family!
- 3 August 6:** As Hurricane Isaias made landfall across coastal North Carolina, we got word that our partner shelters out there needed help. So we loaded up 2,000 lbs. of pet food to deliver!
- 4 September 25:** Six adorable Lionhead bunnies are born unexpectedly in foster care. Surprise!
- 5 August 26:** Frightened dogs rescued from a puppy mill bust are carried by staff into the SPCA Admission Center where they'll get a second chance at a happy life.
- 6 October 8:** Lucy and her eight nursing puppies first arrive at the SPCA Admission Center before going into a warm, safe foster home.





# SEVEN MINI-MIRACLES ON HIDDEN CREEK LANE



Gabby and her seven puppies arrive at SPCA Wake

**G**abby was living outside, bearing the weight of the cold fall weather and relying only on herself to survive as a homeless stray... when suddenly things became even more dire. **Hungry, alone, and exposed to the elements, Gabby gave birth to seven tiny puppies in early December.**

As her maternal instincts kicked in, *Gabby found herself in a life-or-death predicament.* Without any reliable source of food, water, or shelter, how would she care for not only herself but seven newborns? As Gabby nursed her litter, curling up with them to keep them warm rather than leave to go in search of food, her nurturing instincts began to take an extreme toll on her body. **Gabby's family needed a miracle – their survival depended on it.**

A week later, a Good Samaritan walking by noticed one of Gabby's puppies that had strayed from the

group. Concerned for the pup, they searched the area and finally found Gabby hiding beneath an old trailer on Hidden Creek Lane, huddled up with her other six puppies. They gathered the family and took them to our partner shelter in Warren County for help.

The shelter staff knew that Gabby and her pups would need round-the-clock care in a trained foster home, and on top of that, Gabby was suffering from heartworm disease and would need months of expensive treatment to recover. So as soon as they arrived at the shelter, our partners at Warren County knew they could count on SPCA Wake to step up. **And when they called us for help, we said yes without hesitation.**

## A New Beginning Starts Here

The next day Gabby arrived at SPCA Wake and it was clear just how much she'd sacrificed for her family.



December 4, 2020



March 1, 2021



# SIX POUNDS DOWN & FELINE FABULOUS

While all her puppies were plump, happy, and well-fed, Gabby's ribs and spine were visible, and her sunken face showed her desperation. But luckily for her, she had just arrived at exactly the place that could provide all the help she needed and more. **Gabby didn't know it yet, but things were about to change in a very big way.**

That afternoon, Gabby's pups went home with a foster care volunteer. Quiet, cozy, and protected, **Gabby could finally sleep soundly without having to worry where their next meal would come from.** Finally, they were safe.

After weeks of loving care, Gabby had transformed into the dog she was meant to be. A passerby might think she was a different dog entirely. She had reached a healthy weight, had begun treatment for her heartworms, and her confidence around people was beginning to show.

Once a terrified stray, **she had finally realized we were here to help.** All of Gabby's puppies were beautiful, happy, and healthy, and they quickly found loving homes of their own. Gabby will soon complete her heartworm treatments, and her new home will be waiting for her with open arms.

## The Hero They Deserved

Stories like Gabby's aren't as uncommon as we would hope. Nursing mothers living as strays across North Carolina often find themselves in shelters with limited resources that are unable to provide the weeks of foster care or additional medical treatment that nursing mothers need. **But thanks to you, that help is waiting for them right here at SPCA Wake.**

Because of your support, we didn't even have to blink when Warren County called us with an urgent request for help. *You* are the reason nursing mothers like Gabby have a place to go to get the second chance they deserve. *You* were the miracle Gabby needed, and **we can't thank you enough for making this rescue possible!**

Seven weeks later, all of Gabby's puppies were happy, healthy, placed in loving homes.



King Augustus, formerly Bazooka, waits to meet his new mom at SPCA Wake

## ONE-YEAR UPDATE

Last January, "King" Augustus (formerly Bazooka) made international news headlines due to his unusual size and heart-wrenching story. **When he first arrived at SPCA Wake, King weighed over 36 lbs.**

In the year since his adoption King has already lost over six pounds, and for adopter Robin Anderson, his improvement clearly shows. "He used to walk a couple of steps and then lay down" said Anderson.

**"Now he can go up and down the stairs without having to take a break."**

King's diet and monthly vet visits will continue until he reaches a healthy weight. You can follow his weight loss journey on his Facebook page: "Trials & Tribulations of 'King' Augustus, the Cat".



True to his name, King rules his new home!

# YOUR GIFT CHANGES LIVES

We offer a variety of giving opportunities for our generous donors who want to make an impact. We work with individuals, foundations, and businesses to find personalized options that meet your needs. For more information, please visit [spcawake.org](https://spcawake.org).

**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](https://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](https://spcawake.org/stocks)

## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

**GIFT:** Are you 70½ or older? To give through your IRA, just notify your IRA custodian. (This can satisfy 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.



**RESCUED!**  
Jazzy gets a head scratch while at SPCA Wake's Admission Center mid-2020

## CREATE YOUR OWN FUNDRAISER



Celebrating a birthday or special occasion? Celebrate and save lives by creating a Facebook fundraiser to celebrate the special day.  
**[facebook.com/fundraisers](https://facebook.com/fundraisers)**

## SPONSOR A LIFESAVING PROGRAM



These gifts are sure to inspire. Pick an SPCA program from our online Gift Guide, and we'll send a card, and certificate insert to them!  
**[spcawake.org/giftguide](https://spcawake.org/giftguide)**

## SPONSOR A HOMELESS PET



Sponsorships help all pets who come to SPCA Wake by offsetting the costs of providing food, shelter and veterinary care.  
**[spcawake.org/petsponsor](https://spcawake.org/petsponsor)**

## QUESTIONS? WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

SPCA Donor Care 919-532-2083 or 919-532-2086  
Mondy Lamb, VP of Dev. email: [mlamb@spcawake.org](mailto:mlamb@spcawake.org)