

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2021

**GIVE WHERE
YOU LIVE**
DONORS HELP
LOCAL PETS
PAGES 3 & 8

**SUMMER
OF LOVE**

STORIES OF
HOPE AND
COMPASSION
MADE POSSIBLE
BY YOU PAGES 4-7

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CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE

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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 58 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.*

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Summer's most inspiring stories of second chances here in one newsletter!

Dear Friends,

This edition of Critter Chatter contains some extra special stories that have me thinking about the beauty of second chances. For the pets who enter into our shelter, they are counting on those second chances...and the hope that comes with starting a new life in a family of their own. If you're anything like me, you have likely been on the receiving end of a second chance a time or two. As I reflect back on my own opportunities to start anew, I recognize that the kindness of others was central to those moments. In the same way, you are central to every single story of hope and transformation found on the pages within. If not for your kindness and your trust in our work, **rescues like Basketti and the abandoned bag of kittens simply could not exist.**

When I consider the challenges of the past year, **I am humbled with profound gratitude for the ways you have continued to show up** for the pets in our care, and the people who love them. While we had to flex and adapt as an organization to operate in a changing and unfamiliar landscape, your support and commitment to our mission remained constant.

Because of you, 1,218 pets were adopted into safe and loving homes *this summer alone*. And pets that required extra medical care, time, and compassion received it. I hope you see yourself in every story of hope and second chances that we share. Without you, none of this would be possible.

In deep gratitude,

Kim Janzen
President & CEO



A letter from SPCA Wake
President & CEO, Kim Janzen

HOPE BEYOND COUNTY LINES: JOHNSTON COUNTY



When injured, sick, or newborn pets are brought into municipal shelters across North Carolina, the imbalance between available resources and the thousands of animals who need them places pets in the overcrowded shelters at high risk for euthanasia.

In order to bridge the gap and save as many lives as possible, **SPCA Wake partners with North Carolina shelters from 58 different counties** by transferring vulnerable pets into the SPCA's adoption program to help animals in need of veterinary care, foster homes, or simply more time to find a loving family. One of those partnerships is with our neighbors at the Johnston County Animal Shelter.

"As a government-run shelter, space always seems to be an issue," says Chuck Lively, Johnston County Shelter Supervisor. "Our partnership with the SPCA is a big asset in getting these animals into loving homes."

Thanks to continued support from the community, SPCA Wake has taken more than one thousand animals from the Johnston County shelter since 2017.

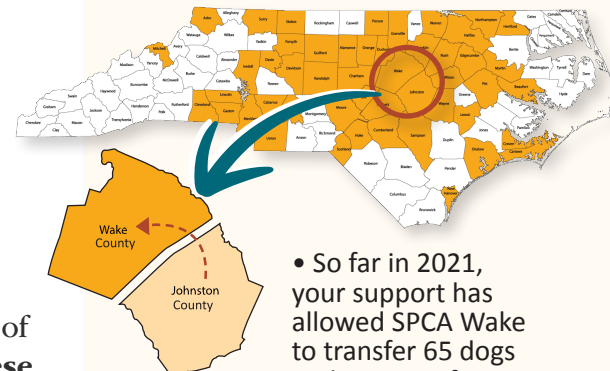
"Many lives have been saved," says Lively. And it's all because of you. **Thank you for giving these pets the care they need and the happy futures they deserve.**



ABOVE: Jabba comes to SPCA Wake from the Johnston shelter so he can have more time to find a family.

DID YOU KNOW?

Johnston County is one of over 50 NC counties we work with through collaborative partnerships that save pets and help people.



• So far in 2021, your support has allowed SPCA Wake to transfer 65 dogs and 137 cats from Johnston County.



A newborn kitten is transferred from the Johnston shelter so she can receive life-saving care in an SPCA foster home.

ONE "WHEELY" SPECIAL RESCUE

Basketti practices using her wheelchair in her SPCA foster home.

On a rainy day in late April, a chime in our inbox indicated a special plea had just arrived. Our partner shelter in Warren County had emailed a cell phone video showing a **young, happy puppy dragging her two back legs** along the ground as she bounced around with glee.

As we watched the shelter's video, one thing became abundantly clear: **this carefree puppy didn't know she was any different.**

The puppy, who we later named Basketti, had been surrendered to be euthanized due to a **congenital disability called spina bifida that left**

they knew that without access to the specialty veterinary care Basketti would need, euthanasia would be her unavoidable fate.

But thanks to your ongoing support, the tools and care needed to save Basketti were waiting for her right here at the SPCA.

Basketti soon made the 61-mile journey to the SPCA to meet staff veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix. After performing a thorough medical exam and confirming Basketti's diagnosis, Dr. Bledsoe-Nix began mapping out a treatment plan to get Basketti on track for a healthy, happy future.

Basketti stayed in a foster home for the next

A SAFETY NET FOR PETS

SPCA Wake's veterinary medical resources make it one of the few shelters in NC that can treat and rehabilitate large numbers of homeless pets with medical needs. This safety net program is helping eliminate euthanasia as the only option for sick or injured pets at area animal shelters.

her entire hind end paralyzed. The staff's hearts were breaking —

Within minutes of arriving, Basketti is already winning hearts and chasing toys!



several weeks receiving physical therapy, medication for the open sores on her legs caused by dragging, and best of all, her very own custom-fit wheelchair that would grow along with her!

With a little training, Basketti was soon rolling around her foster home, smiling from ear to ear.

Meanwhile, a Zebulon resident named Allison Edwards was searching for a special dog to bring into her family. She was no stranger to caring for wheelchair dogs, and when she saw Basketti, it was love at first sight. Just two days later, she made it official.

Now two months after Basketti was adopted, she has been thriving in her new home, and Edwards can't talk about her without smiling. "She's been so much more than I ever thought," says Edwards. "She's so smart, she's curious. She's hilarious," she adds. "She does not let her disability slow her down at all."

“
She does
not let her
disability
slow her down
at all. She's
really just
amazing.

- adopter
Allison Edwards

Edwards says her wish for Basketti is to have a healthy and happy life — a wish made possible by your generous support for homeless pets just like Basketti across North Carolina. "Every day is an adventure with her," says Edwards. "She just blows me away."

They've already begun making new memories together so Basketti can enjoy all that life has to offer. "I took her to the beach, and she loves the water," Edwards laughs. "I had to buy her a wetsuit!"

Because of you, what would have been the end of Basketti's road instead became a wide-open future, and for that we can never thank you enough.



Basketti wins the heart of veterinarian Dr. Bledsoe-Nix during her initial medical exam.

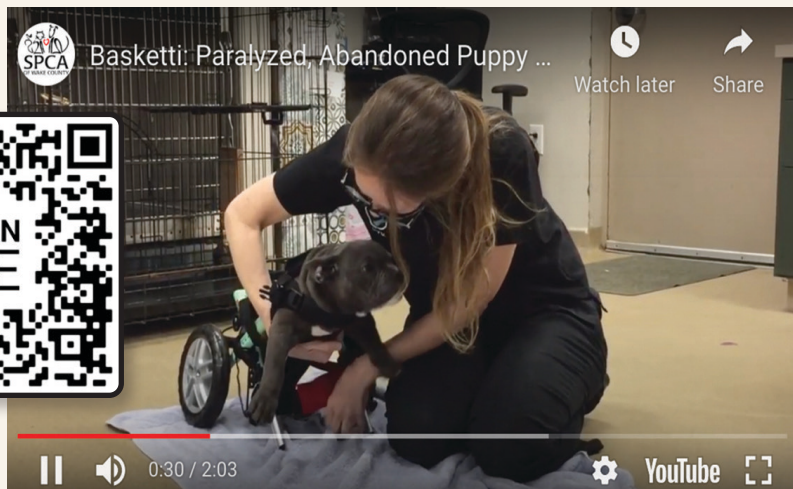


Basketti's new mom Allison gets celebratory puppy kisses after signing the paperwork to make the adoption official!

SEE YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

VIDEO: At every step of Basketti's rescue, your support provided the specialty veterinary care, mobility tools, and expertise to give her the life she deserves.

Use your mobile phone to scan the QR code (right) to watch Basketti's journey for yourself, from the day she first arrives to the moment she is finally fitted with her wheelchair!



THEIR FATES WERE SEALED, LITERALLY.



An ordinary drive home one sweltering June afternoon took an unexpected turn when 85-year-old retiree Chuck Campbell noticed a strange bag on the side of the road that hadn't been there the day before. Compelled by curiosity (or possibly fate), Chuck stopped to investigate.

"I opened the bag and there were [these] beautiful tiny baby kittens, all nestled together," said Chuck, "and I just could not keep from crying."

The kittens were starving and dehydrated, and at

only two weeks old, their outlook was grim. Chuck brought them to his wife Vickie, and they quickly realized the kittens would need urgent medical care to survive, so they called SPCA Wake in the hopes of finding help.

When the Campbells arrived at our door, the kittens were already on the brink. **But your support provided the round-the-clock care they needed to survive.** The kittens were each bottle-fed, hydrated, and medically assessed by the SPCA's veterinarian. After a few weeks of continued treatment and close monitoring in a volunteer foster home, the kittens were bright-eyed, playful, and growing like weeds.



SHELTER DIVERSION

By bringing kittens and other pets directly into SPCA Wake, we can prevent homeless animals from ever entering area animal shelters, helping to eliminate shelter euthanasia in our region due to overcrowding.



The 2-week-old kittens receive special neonatal care from the SPCA's veterinary team.



Jackdaw in the arms of his new mom on his big adoption day.

“

We left for home with happy hearts knowing that now, they had a better chance.

- Vickie Campbell

The story of Chuck's heroism and the kittens' miraculous recovery soon caught the attention of several local news stations, and suddenly **the incredible tale was touching and inspiring people all across the state.** Soon, families from far and wide were offering their hearts and homes to the four kittens, and before we knew it, they were each on their way out the door in the arms of beaming adopters.

The best part? Chuck and Vickie got to visit the kittens on their big adoption day to see them finally grown and healthy and to share their heartfelt wishes for long, happy futures.

This amazing story of happenstance and heroism was only possible because of your support. And the Campbells want you to know, "we are so grateful for you."

Thank you for creating a safe place where pets in need can receive life-saving care when they need it the most.

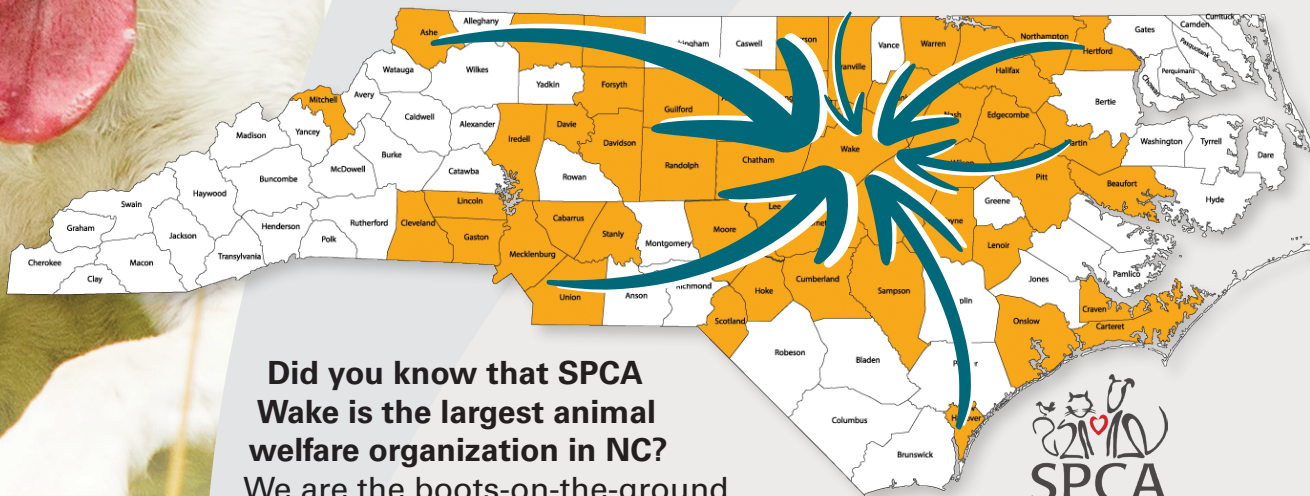


Now 8 weeks old, the kittens are reunited with Chuck & Vickie for a proper send-off before going to their new homes.



GIVE LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL.

THE SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY: SO MUCH MORE BEHIND THE NAME



Did you know that SPCA
Wake is the largest animal
welfare organization in NC?

We are the boots-on-the-ground,
brick & mortar organization making
active change in over half the counties throughout the state.



FACT:

SPCA Wake receives ZERO government funding, has no umbrella organization providing us funding, and is not associated with the ASPCA or any other humane society. **Our work is made possible by people and businesses in our local community, and we rely on your support to continue!**

- Because of your support, we're improving the lives of pets and people across NC. The **4,000+ pets rescued** annually through the SPCA's admission and adoption program are just the tip of the iceberg.
- Your donations make a lifesaving difference for the **55,602 people** who called us requesting urgent and immediate assistance.
- Your support has assisted with **61,982 low-cost spay/neuter surgeries** for local pets since the opening of our Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Animal Clinic.
- Because of you, **83,441 pet meals have been provided** to families and individuals in need.

QUESTIONS? WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

SPCA Donor Care 919-532-2083 or 919-532-2086
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