



CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2022

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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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The Year in Review

Dear Friends,

The changing of seasons – especially the transition from the barrenness of winter to the blooming of spring – often causes me to pause and reflect on the changes the SPCA of Wake County has weathered too.

When I look back on 2021, I see a year filled with both challenges and victories, moments of joy and sadness, new beginnings and chapters that came to a close.

The stories and impact numbers inside this issue hold all of those things at once...the same way that life so often does.

As you read the stories and see the incredible impact SPCA Wake made this past year, know that behind every number and at the heart of every story – when everything else is stripped away – it was your compassion and care that made it all possible.

And just as this season gives way to spring, and the leaves grow back and days grow longer, I know there are stories yet to be told and many happy endings yet to come.

Thank you for standing with us and being an important part of it all.

A letter from SPCA Wake
President & CEO, Kim Janzen

In deep gratitude,

Kim Janzen
President & CEO



2021 IMPACT REPORT

Behind each number you see below, there's a pet, a person, or a family who felt YOUR support in 2021. 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!

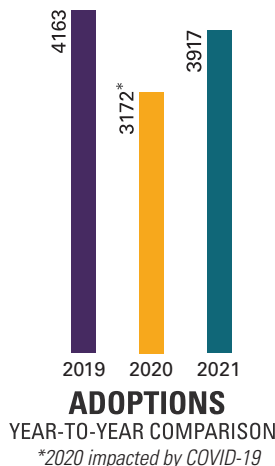
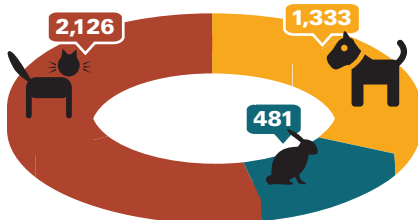
— Mondy Lamb, VP of Philanthropy | contact: mlamb@spcawake.org or 919.532.2086



3,940 LIVE OUTCOMES

- 3,917 animals adopted
- 18 returned to owner or TNR'd
- 5 transferred to partner groups

adoptions by species



1,435 PETS FOSTERED



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

35.4% of all pets rescued by the SPCA in 2021 spent time in foster.

72 HW+ DOGS



received life-saving treatment for Heartworm Disease.



5,500 ANIMALS SPAYED & NEUTERED

- 4,432 pets altered through the low-cost Saving Lives Clinic
- 1,068 pets altered through the spay/neuter voucher program

66,414 FIXES Number of pets spayed/neutered through the Saving Lives Clinic since its opening in 2009

That's **445,647 births prevented** that likely would have needed shelter services.



60,109 CALLS FOR HELP ANSWERED

SPCA Wake helps pets stay in their homes and out of shelters by providing vital resources, assistance, and education to our community.



115,931 PET MEALS PROVIDED

Low-income households and homebound senior citizens receive pet food and supplies through the SPCA's AniMeals program and our partnerships with 7 local agencies including Meals on Wheels and the Food Bank of Eastern & Central NC.



962 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers, working both on site and remotely, gave 44,785 hours, equivalent to 21 full-time employees.



3,466 PETS MICROCHIPPED

to ensure they can always find their way back home in the event they were to get lost or find themselves at a shelter.

333 COMMUNITY CATS



sterilized, vaccinated, and released or rehomed in order to reduce feral cat and kitten overpopulation in North Carolina.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

93.2%

93.2% of each donor dollar went to programs & program support with only 6.8% spent on to fundraising.* SPCA Wake is nationally recognized for responsible financial stewardship and transparency to donors, earning high marks from both Guidestar and Charity Navigator.

*source: FY20 990 Tax Return (most recent 990)



OTHER ANIMAL OUTCOMES

SPCA Wake started 2021 with 252 animals in our care and took in an additional 4,058 animals throughout the year. Out of this total:

- 3,940 were live outcomes (see top of page)
- 42 died and 24 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.
- 304 were in our care on 12-31-21



Joy celebrates the New Year warm & cozy in her first loving home.

THE TIME OF JOY'S LIFE



When we rescued a 10-year-old senior dog named Joy (*formally known as Joyanna*), we knew she was suffering from cancer. What we didn't know is that her cancer had metastasized so badly that she could never be cured.

Joy had been surrendered to our shelter partners in Warren County after a life of living outside without attention. After her difficult life, we felt deeply in our hearts that **Joy deserved more than to spend her last days in a shelter.**

With a steely determination, we set out on a mission to show Joy how it felt to be loved, spoiled, and cherished in a real home by a loving family — a search for an angel with a selfless heart who could give Joy the best days of her life. And soon, we found Adrienne.

Adrienne worked as a vet tech helping sick animals, and she'd cared for terminally ill dogs

before, filling their lives with memories and smiles and cherishing every moment together. With overflowing compassion and a huge heart, Adrienne could not have been a more perfect family for Joy.

Before we knew it, Joy was on her way out our doors in a whirlwind of smiles and hugs as she left for home with her new mom.

Within hours of the adoption, Adrienne was sending us photos of Joy's new memories — a special treat on the way home, tail wags as she walked through her new front door, and absolute contentment as Joy curled up on her very own bed next to the Christmas tree. "She made herself right at home," said Adrienne, "and she found the cat food bowls immediately," she laughed.

For the rest of Joy's life, **Adrienne devoted every spare minute to showing Joy how loved she really was.** Between time in the yard digging holes (Joy's favorite), extra special treats, and cozy naps in swirls of blankets and toys, Joy got to do all the things she loved most.

“

Joy taught me that happiness is found in seemingly small things.

**— Adrienne,
Joy's adopter**

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Joy passed away not long after adoption. But our grief was softened knowing that something magical had just happened. **Joy had been given the greatest gift of her life — to be completely loved, unconditionally.**

“Joy taught me that it is possible to trust someone when you have only ever been let down, that happiness is found in seemingly small things, and that it is possible to feel love in only a few days,” Adrienne wrote in an online tribute to Joy.

We want to thank you for being the reason Joy could have this gift. Thank you for believing in rescue. And thank you for all the ways you pave the way for pets in our community to find the love they deserve. For pets like Joy, it makes all the difference in the world.



Above: The day we've been hoping for — Joy has been adopted!

Right: Joy enjoys a special “puppaccino” to celebrate her adoption day.



Joy sports a special sweater as she settles into her new home.



Joy smiles big with her new brother Tater Tot, another SPCA Wake alum.



McAlister is one of the 2,126 cats and kittens you helped rescue last year!

SAVING McALISTER

Out of more than two thousand cats diverted from area shelters to SPCA Wake in 2021, over a hundred received urgent medical care for common feline illnesses, including *Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)* and *Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)*.

McAlister (left) is a young cat with FIV who came from our shelter partners in Scotland County to stay in SPCA Wake's special FIV+ cat room, where our veterinary team could observe his health and safety as he waited for a home.

While there is no cure for FIV and FeLV, with observation and a few special considerations, infected cats have a good chance at a long and happy life. **Today, because people like you believed in him, McAlister is thriving and loving life with his very own family!**

Your support saves the lives of special needs cats who need a little extra help finding loving homes.



ENSURING A PATH BACK HOME

A pet owner smiles, knowing that her best friend's new microchip will always help him find his way home.

Thousands of pets get lost from their owners in North Carolina every year. Collars can be torn off, and name tags can be lost — but for most of the lucky ones who find their way back home, there's another identification tool they all have in common.

A microchip is a tiny device, smaller than a grain of rice, that is permanently implanted under a pet's scruff. This chip acts as a **reliable form of identification that stays with the pet for the rest of his or her life.**



Our team speaks with a local pet owner about other SPCA Wake services, such as low-cost spay & neuter.

Each microchip has a unique number or code that's revealed by a special scanner used by vet clinics

and animal shelters, and that number links to the family's contact information to facilitate a quick and easy reunion. So when a lost pet turns up at a local shelter, **the shelter will immediately learn who owns that pet and how to contact them to share the good news that their pet has been found.**

Each and every pet at SPCA Wake is microchipped prior to adoption, but the cost of microchips is prohibitive to many other families. As a result, **the majority of pets in our state go without this essential safety net**, leaving them vulnerable to being separated from their owners. Not only is this heartbreaking to families who love their pets, but it **further contributes to the cycle of pet homelessness and shelter crowding in our state** that we continue to battle together.



A microchip will help this cat find her way back home if she is ever lost.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

To close accessibility gaps like this, **SPCA Wake's Community Initiatives team continually works to assess and meet the needs of pets and pet owners throughout North Carolina** by implementing programs from pet food assistance and resource sharing with rural shelters, to community-oriented events like our recent \$5 Microchip Clinic in November 2021.

At our last public clinic, nearly 200 families from all across the Triangle traveled to Garner and braved a brisk November morning for the opportunity to give their pets permanent paths back home at an affordable price.

And to the delight of the attendees, **our teams shared additional resources and education about SPCA Wake's other programs that help keep pets and families together**, including low-cost spay/neuter services, training & behavior assistance, and compassionate, expert advice for any questions or needs each family may have had.

Because of your ongoing support, **you are making it possible to bridge gaps** and ensure families in our community have access to the resources they need to keep their pets safe and secure.

Our hearts are warmed knowing that you have given each of these families the gift of **peace of mind that their best friends and companions will forever have permanent,**

reliable paths back home should they ever get lost.

Thank you for supporting SPCA Wake and making it possible to keep pets in the arms of the families who love them most.

We are incredibly excited by the positive changes you are creating. With you by our side, we look forward to continuing the expansion of our Community Initiatives programming as we work together to transform North Carolina into a safe place for pets and their families.



A young woman and her best friend celebrate knowing that they'll always be able to find their way back to each other.



Left: At four weeks old, Guillermo is already fighting to survive.



Above: Guillermo cuddles with his kitten sister in their new home thanks to the life-saving support you provided!



FIGHTING FOR THE LITTLE GUY

Guillermo was just four weeks old, alone and starving on the streets when he was rescued. At the time, he weighed under eight ounces (less than half a healthy weight for his age). Without intervention, he wasn't going to make it.

But because of you, Guillermo had access to life-saving support so he could recover and grow into a strong, healthy little kitten.

Now, Guillermo is thriving in his new home with his kitten sister and a loving family! His adopters say he's full of personality and growing like a weed. **Thank you** for giving kittens like Guillermo a place to go to receive emergency care when they need it the most. It means everything to these pets and the families who love them.

let's get SOCIAL



/SPCAwake



@spcaofwakecounty



@spcawake



PETS CHANGE OUR LIVES LET'S SAVE THEIRS

See even more of the stories you love and the work your support makes possible by joining SPCA Wake on social media. There is a vibrant and compassionate community of animal lovers waiting right here for you!

SCAN ME!



Use the QR code here to follow **SPCA Wake** on your favorite social channels from Facebook to TikTok! Join our community of local animal lovers and get SPCA Wake's latest updates in real-time.



Get behind-the-scenes rescue stories, before & afters, and live looks at major happenings and intakes.



Stay up-to-date with events, adoption promotions, and special donation opportunities like triple matches.



Brighten your day with adoption updates and feel-good community stories.



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OF WAKE COUNTY