

# CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE  
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2023

**2023  
HITTING  
THE GROUND  
RUNNING**

**THESE  
NUMBERS  
DON'T LIE!**

YOUR INCREDIBLE IMPACT  
PAGES 3 & 7

**HOW  
YOU CAN  
PERSONALLY  
SAVE A LIFE  
EVERY MONTH!**

PAGE 8

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ONLINE AT

[SPCAWAKE.ORG](https://www.spcawake.org)





# 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 58 NC counties through collaborative partnerships that save pets and help people.

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.

SPCA Wake holds a 4-star rating (highest rating possible) from Charity Navigator – the nonprofit sector's premier trust indicator.



**ADOPT:** [spcawake.org/adopt](http://spcawake.org/adopt)  
[adopt@spcawake.org](mailto:adopt@spcawake.org)

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## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Right:** Kim Janzen,  
President & CEO



## Overwhelmed with Gratitude

**W**ith the New Year comes a time to once again reflect on the life-saving impact SPCA Wake was able to make on our community last year — because of you. Inside this issue you will find critical data that tells of not just a positive impact on our larger community, but of individual stories of hope, second chances, and an **unrelenting commitment to love and kindness.**

All throughout the year I have had the chance to witness firsthand the determination and compassion our teams pour into the pets who come into our care; but there is something special about the start of a new year, when we look back on what was accomplished the year before, when I am especially awestruck by the generosity of our animal-loving community. **You are an essential part of this community, and I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your role in it.** As we make plans for the year ahead, knowing that you stand beside us is all the reassurance I need that the SPCA of Wake County will continue to serve the people and pets of North Carolina through these essential programs and services.

**Thank you for being a part of a remarkable 2022.** I can't wait to share with you all we plan to accomplish this year as well.

With wagging tails and happy purrs all around,

Kim Janzen,  
SPCA Wake President and CEO

# 2022 IMPACT REPORT



Behind each number below, there's a pet, person, or family who felt *your* support in 2022. You kept families together, made frontline rescue work possible, and saved pets and people in crisis. **We are grateful for what you make possible.** Let us know if you'd like to learn more!

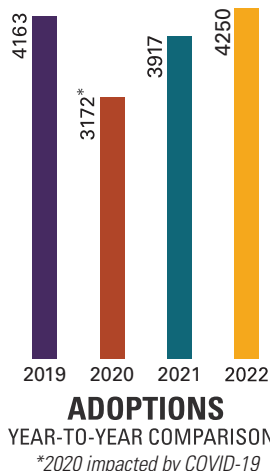
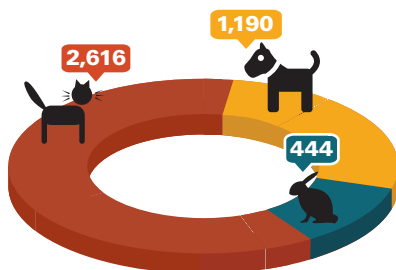
— Mondy Lamb, VP of Philanthropy | contact: [mlamb@spcawake.org](mailto:mlamb@spcawake.org) or 919.532.2086



## 4,291 LIVE OUTCOMES

- 4,250 animals adopted
- 40 returned to owner or TNR'd
- 1 transferred to partner groups

adoptions by species



## 1,812 PETS FOSTERED



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

**41.1% of all pets** rescued by the SPCA in 2022 spent time in foster.



## 610 FAMILIES SERVED

New low-cost Wellness Clinics provided affordable, fundamental vet care, such as vaccines and microchips, for **965** owned pets in our community.



## 6,336 ANIMALS SPAYED & NEUTERED

- 5,289 pets altered through the low-cost Saving Lives Clinic
- 1,047 pets altered through the spay/neuter voucher program

## 71,703 FIXES

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

That's **481,137 births prevented** that likely would have needed shelter services.



## 60,562 CALLS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Number of calls SPCA Wake received from individuals looking to connect with the programs highlighted in this impact report. These people-focused programs help create and keep families and pets together in our community.



## 6,744 REQUESTS THROUGH PET HELPLINE

SPCA Wake's Pet Helpline, the first in our region, provides assistance to keep pets in homes, out of shelters, and improve both human and animal lives. **See page 7 for more information on these 2022 requests for help.**



## 159,436 PET MEALS PROVIDED

Low-income households and homebound senior citizens receive pet food and supplies through partnerships with 7 local agencies, including Meals on Wheels of Wake County.

### OTHER ANIMAL OUTCOMES

In CY 2022 the live release rate was 98.08%. SPCA Wake started 2022 with 304 pets in our care and took in an additional 4,413 pets throughout the year. Out of this total:

- 4,291 were live outcomes (see top of page)
- 39 died and 43 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.
- 344 were in our care on 12-31-22

## 1,319 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers, working both on-site and remotely, gave 15,251 hours, equivalent to 8 full-time employees.

## 501 COMMUNITY CATS



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

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



89% of each donor dollar went to programs & program support with 11% 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: FY21 990 Tax Return (most recent 990)







1 Reunited and it feels so good.



2 Clark completes his family!

# LIVES CHANGING



3 Empty nesters no more!



4 Aquarius refuses to be a backseat driver.



5 A family brought back together by a simple microchip!

**E**very pet rescued at SPCA Wake goes on to change the lives of human beings, too. To adopters, pets are truly part of the family — they offer a source of love and support on even the hardest of days, improving lives and bringing countless smiles long after adoption day. These are just a few of the thousands of families who've been touched by a special animal this past year. We hope you enjoy these adoption updates knowing that your generous support made all of this possible. **Thank you for being a force for good in our community!**

**1** When Riley & Tyler came to find a friend for their dog Murry, they quickly fell in love with Sophie — the dogs looked like twins! **Turns out, Sophie was Murry's littermate.** And now, they're family for life.

**2** "Something sparked the moment I saw Clark's photo. I drove an hour and a half from Greensboro to pick him up. He completes our little fur family in every way, and I'm forever grateful!" — Ashley

**3** 10-year-old Martin was just the laid-back teddy bear Lonnie & Rich were looking for to brighten their empty nest. Together, these three are making the most of retirement — as a family.

**4** "We adopted Aquarius for my elderly mother. Every time mom grabs her walker, Aquarius jumps on the seat and rides around wherever she's going! She is a wonderful cat." — Connie

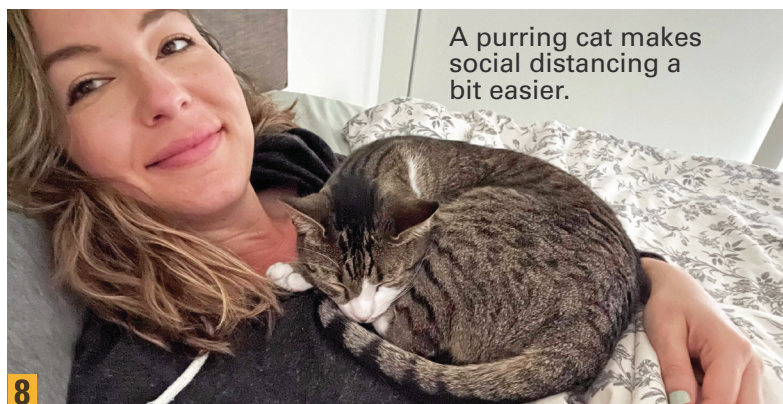
**5** Thanks to a microchip, our team discovered that stray cat Ginny had gotten lost from her family 10 months earlier. Her family was overjoyed she was safe and dropped everything for this tearful reunion!

**6** The Yarboroughs wanted to help an overlooked pet. They made a bee-line straight for Romeo & Juliet, a pair of FeLV+ cats who'd been at the shelter for a year, and gave them the home they'd been waiting for!

**7** "We were in a dark place after the sudden loss of our beloved cat. Then Nigel became our greatest blessing. **He's helped our whole family heal while healing himself.** We've since become cat fosters, and Nigel has decided to be the welcoming committee. We could not imagine life without him." — The Saíses



# YOU SAVED



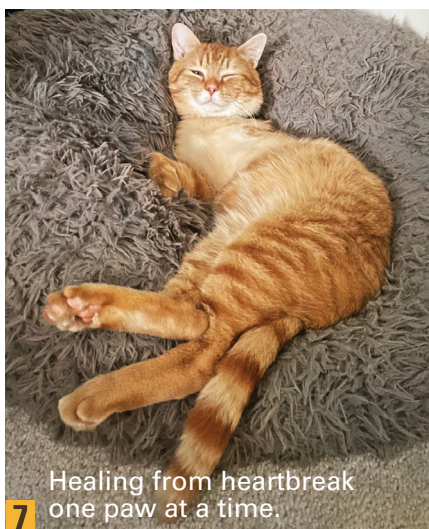
A purring cat makes social distancing a bit easier.

8



Two cats waited a whole year to find the perfect family.

6



Healing from heartbreak one paw at a time.

7



Hogan makes his family whole.

9



Marco needed a family as much as his family needed him.

10



Petey the longtimer is now Petey, party of three!

11



Judd takes his role of "big brother" to a whole new level!

12

**8** "I got Cucumber during a time that not many people were socializing. But he runs to the door when I get home, follows me wherever I go, sleeps in my bed every night and steals scraps of food from the garbage like a raccoon. **He ended up being the biggest blessing I could ask for.**" — Lauren

**9** After a difficult life of abandonment and neglect, Hogan learned what it means to be a best friend. Now, Hogan and his new dad Garrit face each day together, stronger than they ever were apart.

**10** "When I adopted Macro, I was in a deep depression. Taking care of Macro helped me and gave me a reason to get up in the morning. **I need Macro as much as he needs me.**" — Maria

**11** Petey (*left*) was the longest resident at his previous shelter, overlooked by adopters. But soon after coming to SPCA Wake, he caught somebody's eye. Now, Petey's mom says he couldn't be happier, and he is the "perfect addition" to their family.

**12** Judd (*right*) has transformed from 30 lbs. and neglected to 80 lbs. and absolutely spoiled. He lights up his family's life every day, and he loves being "big" brother to his new pug sister Liffey!



# ODYSSEY'S TRIUMPHANT TALE



Odyssey was rushed to see the vet immediately upon arrival.



The radiographs show the extreme swelling of her injured leg.



**W**hen Dustin arrived to work in the early morning hours of December 24, the temperature was a bitter 11° F. As he pulled into the parking lot, he could just make out the shape of an animal kennel near the front door of the SPCA. Approaching the kennel, Dustin thought, *please don't let there be an animal in there.*

But when he brought his cell phone up to illuminate the kennel, he could see the small shape of a dog inside. His light reflected off dozens of small icicles clinging to the puppy's fur and face.

Inside the kennel was a badly injured 6-month old Boxer puppy. Dustin's initial fear was that she might be dead – but then the puppy looked up at him. She had been in freezing temperatures for hours, and Dustin knew he had to act fast.

He pulled the kennel into the building and pried the door open. Certain the freezing puppy was in a great deal of pain, he moved carefully, tucking warm blankets around her and placing a space heater on low nearby to warm her slowly.

Odyssey was soon rushed to one of SPCA's veterinary partners, Oak Heart Vet Hospital, where veterinarians surgically repaired the badly infected wound on the puppy's front leg. Thanks to the quick intervention, her leg was saved. Vets created a custom splint to optimize limb position and encourage the puppy to put weight on the leg.

**Today, Odyssey is safe because of you!** More than that – she is bright, sassy, and full of spirit! And best of all, she's getting a true fairytale ending – her new mom is a local veterinarian who can provide a rich, full life with the best possible care. Thank you for providing a second chance for all pets in need, including the unexpected emergencies.

Your ongoing support allows us to make quick decisions when time is of the essence, ensuring the best possible outcome for sick and injured animals. *You are creating stories of triumph instead of tragedy, and we are forever grateful.*

## **Compassion for everyone involved.**

After 56 years of helping the pets and people in our community, we've learned there is usually more to a story than what meets the eye. Yes, someone abandoned a badly injured puppy in freezing temperatures. But we don't know their circumstances or how they found the dog. Perhaps their only option at that time was to leave her somewhere they knew she'd receive the attention she desperately needed. Perhaps they couldn't afford critical veterinary care.

**We know many people are struggling to care for their pets right now.** And that's why we want to make sure our message of compassion for whoever left the puppy on our doorstep doesn't get lost in the circumstances of how we found sweet Odyssey.



# 2022 IMPACT REPORT CONTINUED



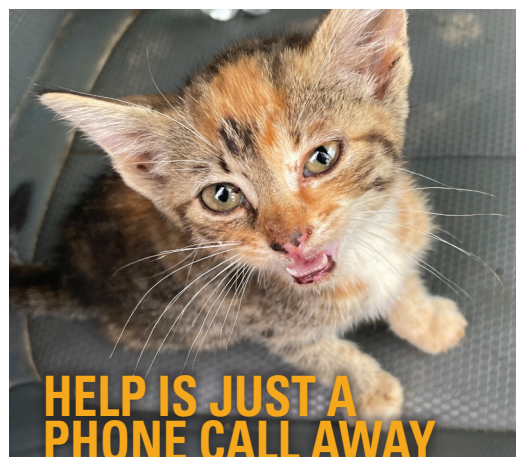
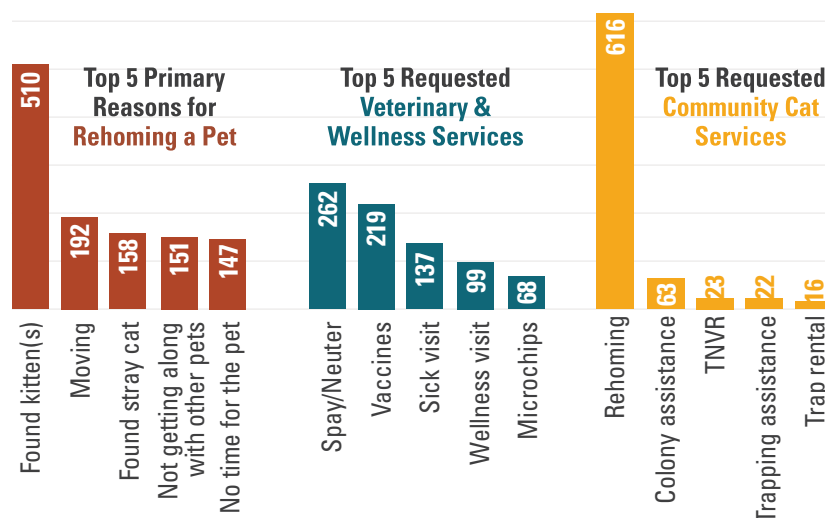
After a significant increase in demand for animal care services following the COVID-19 pandemic, **SPCA Wake launched the Pet Helpline** — a **first-of-its-kind initiative** designed to make it easy for our community to find pet-related support.

The new Pet Helpline connects callers **with pet resources and programs while also providing insight into what programs and services our community needs most.**



## 6,744 REQUESTS THROUGH PET HELPLINE

Pet Helpline staff collaborated with SPCA program staff to assist each caller individually, providing a solution or additional resources.



### HELP IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

According to our first year of Helpline insights, **the greatest need for rehoming assistance is for stray kittens found in the community** (510 requests).

In June 2022, Libby Hardwick found a young kitten (*above*) wandering alone at a construction site. Libby contacted the Pet Helpline to ask the SPCA's help in finding her a loving home.

**When we received her request, our Helpline team coordinated with our Intake team to offer the kitten a place in our adoption program.**

The kitten, Teddy, was adopted in July and has been safe and cared for by her new family ever since!

**Common themes from these insights show an obvious need in our community** for more low-cost spay/neuter surgeries, microchips, and behavior/training assistance to reduce the number of lost/found animals and requests to surrender a pet.

**In 2022, SPCA Wake took active steps to meet these needs:**

- **Increasing the number of low-cost spay/neuter surgeries** offered at the Saving Lives Clinic
- **Provided 449 free or “pay-what-you-can” spay/neuter surgeries** to help those who could not afford the low-cost prices
- **Hosted four low-cost Wellness Clinics**, providing affordable, essential vet care (e.g., microchips, vaccines) for 610 local families and their pets

Continuing to listen to the needs of our community through **the Helpline will help us take even more action in 2023** to support pets and people.



# JOIN THE MONTHLY-GIVING CLUB



## SAVE A LIFE NOW AND EVERY MONTH OF 2023

**E**very day abandoned and abused pets arrive at our door for help. And when they do, we absolutely must have the resources already in place to be able to save them.

As a Monthly Donor, YOU can help make rescues happen every month. This is a **special group of the SPCA's most passionate supporters** who make it possible to plan for rescue efforts today and in the future by signing up to make automatic monthly gifts. **Please join this life-saving group of animals lovers like you!**

Scan with  
your phone's  
camera!



**Gwyn Schuler,**  
Stewardship and Monthly-  
Giving Coordinator with  
SPCA dog Plom.

Hello,

My name is Gwyn! I am thrilled to manage the Monthly-Giving program. **This program means so much to the people and pets right here in NC.**

One of the reasons people choose to join the Monthly-Giving program is its convenience. Like any subscription-based service, you provide your credit/debit card or your bank account, designate the amount you'd like to give each month, **and we take care of the rest!**

Plus, you can reach out any time to change your donation amount, skip a month or make other changes.

Once you've enrolled as a Monthly Donor, we will bill the credit or debit card of your choice each month for the amount you specify.

**To sign up, scan the QR code, visit [spcawake.org/monthly](https://spcawake.org/monthly) or call 919-532-2082**

Sincerely,

*Gwyn*

**Gwyn Schuler,**  
Stewardship Coordinator  
[gschuler@spcawake.org](mailto:gschuler@spcawake.org)  
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