

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



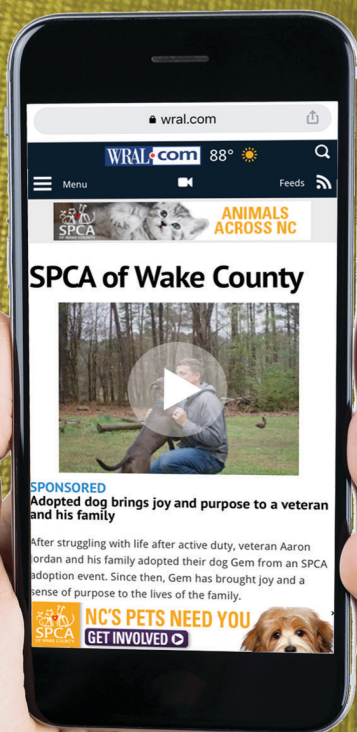
NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 2022

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videos and
tell us your
favorite!

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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
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
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Right: Kim Janzen, SPCA Wake President & CEO, named one of the best CEOs in the Triangle area by *Triangle Business Journal*

Mid-Year Report Card

Dear Friends,

As a 100% community-funded organization, SPCA Wake relies on the generosity of people like you to support our mission. Truly, you make everything possible! We value your generosity and humbly take pride in stewarding your hard-earned charitable dollars to have maximum community impact.

That's why I'm excited to share with you a recent recognition awarded to our President & CEO, Kim Janzen. Kim was named one of the best CEOs in the Triangle area by the *Triangle Business Journal*. Her achievements on behalf of the animals – **and on behalf of you** – our supporters, set her apart as a leader. *Look for her interview in a special edition of TBJ published on September 23.*

I know you have many choices when deciding where to invest your support, so I want to take a moment and share with you a few highlights of **what you have made possible so far this year**. In the first seven months of 2022, you have helped:

- Welcome 2,713 pets into our care
- Provide 2,916 spay/neuter surgeries to animals at our shelter and throughout our community
- Provide 90,184 pet meals to families in need
- Answer 3,591 requests for help (see pages 6-7)
- Find loving homes for 2,426 pets (*34% increase over 2021*)

SPCA Wake continues to be a regional resource – for our state's under-funded animal shelters, for individuals and families in need, and for so many pets who have nowhere else to go. Thank you for your continued partnership.

With Tremendous Gratitude,

Mondy
Mondy Lamb, Vice President of Development



LET US KNOW YOUR FAVORITE!

A LOVE LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Yep, I said it – love.♥
If this were the 80s, we'd be making you a mix tape and holding a boom box in your driveway. Because truly, we love you and all that your support makes possible.

We've created six short video clips that showcase the life-saving work you are an integral part of. Think of these videos as six love letters to you in return for all the love and joy you

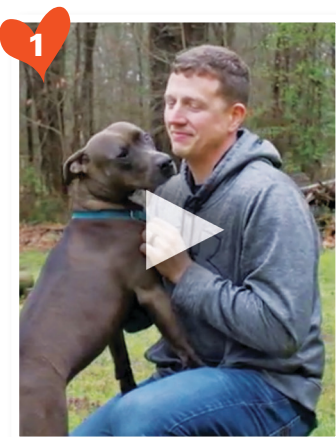
bring to the pets and people helped through SPCA Wake programs.

Speaking of love, I bet it's love that drives your generosity and your desire to help the most vulnerable among us. Love takes us to amazing and generous places. Whether you're a new donor or have been with us for years, please know that your generosity matters. It moves mountains. Thank you!



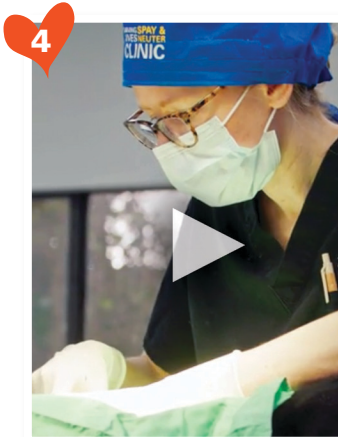
TO WATCH VIDEOS:
Scan the code above
or visit spcawake.org/loveletters

– *Mondy Lamb*
VP of Development
mlamb@spcawake.org



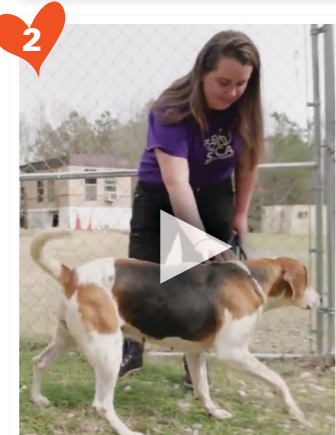
DOG BRINGS JOY AND PURPOSE TO A VETERAN AND HIS FAMILY

For Aaron Jordan, adopting Gem not only added a valuable member to his family but also helped him transition from a difficult deployment back to civilian life.



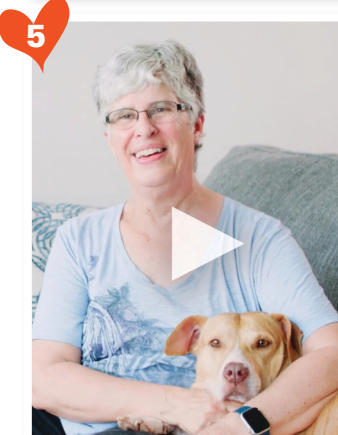
SPCA WAKE'S SAVING LIVES CLINIC LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

North Carolina is #3 in the US for shelter pet deaths. To help save these animals and reduce pressure on shelters, our low-cost spay/neuter program is tackling the issue at the root by preventing unnecessary pet births and helping keep pets healthy.



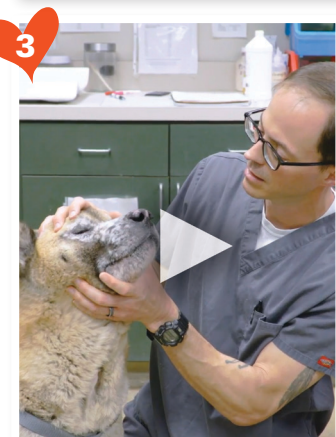
WITH LIMITED ROOM AT SHELTERS, PARTNERSHIPS HELP SAVE AT-RISK ANIMALS

Since municipal animal shelters have a limited amount of space and a high number of intakes, time is of the essence in finding these animals loving homes.



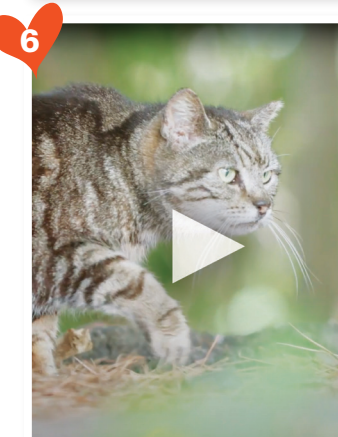
NEW PROGRAMS WORK TO KEEP PETS WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND OUT OF SHELTERS

Through a wide variety of new programs and a collaboration with Meals on Wheels, SPCA Wake provides assistance to help families keep their beloved pets at home where they are loved the most.



THE SAFETY NET FOR HOMELESS PETS IN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

When pets in our community need lifesaving veterinary care, SPCA Wake's progressive medical program is here to step in, heal pets, and prevent the euthanasia of adoptable animals.



STRAIGHT TO THE SOURCE: TACKLING CAT OVERPOPULATION IN NC

Uncontrolled breeding of unowned outdoor cats causes a shocking number of shelter pet deaths each year. By sterilizing outdoor cats and collaborating with community members, we can address the root cause of cat overpopulation and save more pet lives.

THE AMAZING WILL TO LIVE

The cries were faint, but unmistakable – there was a kitten trapped in the dumpster at Marie’s Morrisville apartment complex. When Marie pulled the tiny kitten from the debris, she was horrified to see the feline’s left eye bulging. Tina rushed to SPCA Wake for help.

Medical Director Dr. Bledsoe-Nix treated the kitten we dubbed Pirate on arrival. The kitten was suffering from trauma combined with a severe infection behind the eye. “Her odds of survival were 0%; she would not have made it another day. Between the dumpster, predators and her body giving out from infection, she didn’t have long,” said Bledsoe-Nix.

“Cats have an instinctive knowledge that something bad is coming – they can feel it,” said Dr. Bledsoe-Nix. “That’s why Pirate cried out to a passerby, and it’s why PJ (orange kitten pictured right) meowed as though his life depended on it – because it did.”

PJ’s cries for help were anything but faint. It was 15 minutes before closing at one of our rural shelter partners, and the tiny orange kitten had just arrived, alone and underweight. His cries caught the attention of SPCA volunteer Shannon. It was a holiday weekend, which meant minimal staff for the next three days. But PJ didn’t have that long to live.

Shannon transported him from the shelter to the SPCA for treatment. Upon arrival, Dr. Bledsoe-Nix noted that the kitten was so dehydrated and malnourished that without medical intervention, he would have died within 24 hours.

If not for their fighting spirit and the timely intervention of some special humans, these two kittens would not be alive today. But they are – growing healthy and strong in foster care and ready to begin the rest of their happy ending in an adoptive family of their own.

Two kittens, each hours away from a sure death, reached out to people to ask for help to survive.



Above: Pirate, hours after being rescued from a dumpster. (We have covered the very graphic wound with a bandaid.)



Right: A recycled KN95 mask makes an impromptu kitten e-collar.



Above: Hours away from dehydration and death, PJ used the last of his energy to connect with a human for help. **Right:** PJ healthy and happy in SPCA Foster Care.



PJ received daily fluid support for over a week to recover from severe dehydration.

HEALING HEARTS, LITERALLY

GENTLE GIANT SENIOR DOG GETS A SECOND CHANCE AND A PICTURE-PERFECT RETIREMENT

Herbert was alone, overlooked, and battling life-threatening heartworm disease when he found himself in a kennel at one of our rural partner shelters. As a senior Great Dane needing expensive heartworm treatment, Herbert's odds of finding a home were slim. But because of the support of donors like you, Herbert's heartworm disease didn't have to be a barrier to finding a family.

When we heard about Herbert, we made arrangements to transfer him into our care, knowing that **your support could provide him the lifesaving treatment he needed.**

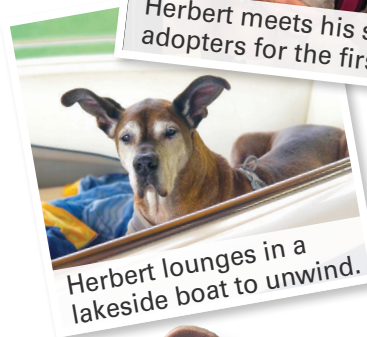
It didn't take long after Herbert's arrival for a young couple named Jennie and Drake to fall in love with the gentle giant! They took Herbert home as a foster dog through our Foster-to-Adopt program. **Between treatments in his three-month heartworm regimen, Herbert gets to enjoy being in his future home with people who love him.**

"He is honestly the absolute best dog we could have ever hoped for," says soon-to-be adopter Jennie. "He is simply perfect." While in foster care, Herbert has been going on boat rides, enjoying the smells of the lake, and cuddling with his new dog brother Trooper. "It's almost like he has been a part of our family since day one."

You've given Herbert his smile back, his health back, and a perfect retirement to boot. **Thank you for being the reason dogs like Herbert don't get left behind!**



Herbert meets his soon-to-be adopters for the first time!



Herbert lounges in a lakeside boat to unwind.

WHY HEARTWORM TREATMENT AT THE SPCA IS IMPORTANT AND UNIQUE

North Carolina's hot and humid climate means that **homeless dogs in our state are especially at-risk for heartworm disease** transmitted by mosquito bites. If adopters had to shoulder the burden of providing heartworm treatment after adoption, say for an 85 lb. senior dog like Herbert, they would have to spend \$5,000 or more at a regular veterinary clinic.

But because SPCA Wake is able to keep costs low, we can provide the treatment for a dog like Herbert for under \$1,000. Our heartworm treatment program **saves hundreds of dogs each year and helps them find homes** without placing a financial burden on the families who wish to adopt them – **thanks to donors like you who support our work.**



SPCA WAKE LAUNCHES REGION'S FIRST PET HELPLINE

It was one week before Christmas 2021 when Alma* called the SPCA Wake's Pet Helpline. Alma had already done the most difficult part – she had escaped an abusive spouse and made it to safety. She called the helpline from a women's shelter seeking temporary care for her two beloved cats.

Alma had fled her abusive relationship with her two adult cats in tow. Her estranged husband had threatened her cats with violence, so she knew she could not leave them behind.

While some domestic violence shelters do allow pets, Alma was not in one of them. When she tried to transfer to a pet-friendly shelter, she was told that because she had already been admitted to a shelter, the other domestic violence shelters could not reserve a space for her and her cats.

Her only option was to give up her space where she currently was and put herself back in the dangerous “unsheltered victim” category in order to be considered for placement in one of the other shelters. However, if she did relinquish the safe harbor she had found, there was no guarantee that a pet-friendly location would have room to accommodate her.

Alma faced the horrible choice between securing safety for herself or for her beloved companions. But thanks to SPCA Wake supporters and the new Pet Helpline – we were there to step in and help.

A Critical Gap in Service

Sadly, Alma's situation is not unique – our community's social safety net system can be difficult to navigate for people in need who don't want to surrender their pets to the municipal animal shelter. Additionally, a critical gap exists in standard assistance programs intended to provide for the health and well-being of at-risk or disadvantaged populations.



Above: A stock photo of a woman and cat, representing Alma, the survivor of domestic violence assisted through the SPCA's new Pet Helpline last December.

In late 2021, SPCA Wake created our region's first Pet Helpline – **a dedicated, staffed helpline for people seeking assistance with animal related questions/issues in order to keep pets in homes, out of municipal animal shelters, and improve both human and animal lives.**

As a result, people who love their pets, but live in under-served communities, may face significant barriers to caring for and keeping their companion animals. SPCA Wake created the pet helpline and our other assistance programs to address these critical gaps in service.

COVID-19 amplified the inequities of pet ownership that already existed in our community. In 2020 alone, SPCA Wake received 55,602 phone calls from our community, an increase of 363% from the previous year. As the pandemic wore on, more and more people reached out to SPCA Wake about how to access affordable veterinary care, pet food and supplies, or temporary pet housing.

Determining how to best meet the needs of our community quickly and efficiently became a priority and resulted in the 2021 launch of the Pet Helpline, an initiative to help better track and respond to the greatest needs in our area.

The Helpline Provides Individual Assistance

For example, we field calls from people faced with either eviction or giving up their companion animal due to economic hardship. As a result, we are able to connect them to resources that help, including the SPCA's temporary pet food assistance program designed specifically to meet this need.

STORIES FROM THE PET HELPLINE

Romeo and Casanova

When Margot* called our Pet Helpline, the last thing she wanted to do was give up on her two beloved dogs, Romeo and Casanova. They were family, and they were loved.

But Romeo and Casanova had some behavior issues – they were fighting all the time, and to Margot, it didn't seem like play fighting, and it was scary.

Behavior issues are one of the leading reasons given by people who surrender their pets to an animal shelter; however, with the right help, most behavior issues can successfully be addressed. In fact, 90% of people who receive behavior help choose to keep their pets instead of surrendering them to an animal shelter.

Margot was able to access expert advice through our Pet Helpline, the dogs' behavioral challenges were resolved, and this family was able to stay together. For Margot and her family, this meant everything (*pictured right*).

A Dozen Starving Cats

Louise* called the Pet Helpline because the home she had just moved into had a dozen homeless, malnourished cats living in the woods behind her new home (*pictured right*). The cats had clearly been going without food, and Louise knew that without intervention, the cats would starve or multiply out of control. But Louise was stuck, unable to afford food and sterilizations for so many cats out of her own pocket.

We worked with Louise to formulate a plan to get help for the cats through our Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Clinic. Before long, every cat had been spayed or neutered, medically treated, and most were relocated to a more appropriate home.

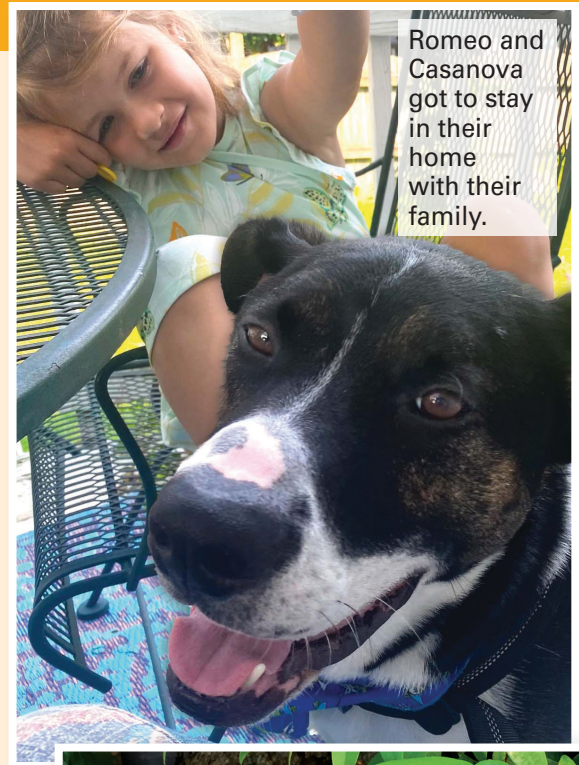
The Helpline Reveals Emerging Community Needs

In March 2021, we began to see more help requests from people needing to surrender their pets due to job loss, restrictive living situations, and homelessness. While our goal is to keep pets in their homes, sometimes that is not possible; but we still want to keep them out of the municipal shelters. Our assistance programming helps people by taking their pets directly into our adoption program – like Rusty, an elderly 12-year-old terrier mix whose owner recently lost their home (*pictured right*).

Conclusion:

The Pet Helpline has made it more efficient to reach people and pets in our community who need our core assistance services. Calls coming into the Pet Helpline show us that **although the emergency need involves a companion animal, it is not simply a pet emergency but a human one.**

The Pet Helpline can be reached online at spcawake.org/helpline or by phone at 919-772-2326 option 5



Romeo and Casanova got to stay in their home with their family.



Twelve skittish felines were rescued from Louise's backyard.



12-year-old Rusty needs a new home after his owner lost his own.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS:

We are currently seeking funding for the Pet Helpline initiative.

If you are interested in helping to support this new program, please contact Gwyn Schuler, Stewardship Coordinator, by phone 919-532-2082 or email: gschuler@spcawake.org.



TAX-SMART WAYS TO GIVE

**Please note – Always consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice. While only your tax advisor can give individual guidance, below are some general guidelines on strategies we have available for giving to SPCA Wake. These guidelines are not intended to be tax advice.*

1- IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

Celebrate those grey hairs with a gift to the animals from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). People aged 70½ or older can contribute up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to a qualified charity like SPCA Wake. People who hold IRAs are required to take distributions each year beginning at age 72. To make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA to the SPCA, just notify your IRA's custodian. Be sure to include our Tax ID#: 56-0891732.

2- GIFTS OF STOCK

Donating stocks and appreciated securities directly to SPCA Wake is fast and easy. You'll receive a receipt for a tax deduction for the full fair market value, and by donating stock that has appreciated for more than a year, you are actually giving more than if you sold the stock and then made a cash donation. The reason is simple: you'll avoid capital gains taxes. In addition, we work closely with First Citizens Bank to receive and sell your transferred securities. **For transfer instructions, contact our donor care team (below right).**

3- (NEW) DONATE CRYPTO CURRENCY

Yes, your cryptocurrency donation is tax deductible!* SPCA Wake offers supporters who want to donate Bitcoin, Ethereum, or USDC (more coins will be supported in the near future) the ability to give in a tax-efficient way. Like other appreciated assets such as stocks, when someone donates appreciated cryptocurrencies to SPCA Wake, donors do not have to pay capital gains tax, and they will receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of the cryptocurrency. **Give through our online portal at spcawake.org/crypto.**

– Mandy Lamb, Vice President of Development
Phone: 919-532-2086 email: MLamb@spcawake.org

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS EVERYTHING

WAYS TO GIVE MADE EASIER



■ MONTHLY GIVING

Monthly donors make a big impact year round! Signing up to be a monthly donor is easier than ever with our NEW monthly online form. Monthly donors can now manage their information through a secure portal. Your monthly gifts add up to make a lifesaving difference for homeless pets.

Visit: spcawake.org/sustaining

Questions? Contact Gwyn Schuler, Stewardship & Monthly Giving Coordinator at 919-532-2082 or email: GSchuler@spcawake.org

■ DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAFs)

Invest your Donor Advised Fund dollars in SPCA Wake for maximum community impact. Now is the time to give! Please put those charitable funds to work and invest in programming to help improve our community! Contact your DAF today and send a gift to the animals.

■ WORKPLACE GIVING

Does your employer have matching funds available? Maximize your giving to the animals with our NEW tool to help identify matching gift opportunities through your employer. **Visit: spcawake.org/matchinggifts**

■ COMPANIES THAT CARE

NEW – Look for this decal in the window of businesses that give back to the community by supporting SPCA Wake!

Visit: spcawake.org/care



THIS BUSINESS SAVES LIVES

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT THE



SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!



Use these details when giving:

OUR FEDERAL TAX ID#: 56-0891732

Our full name: Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Wake County

Contact our Donor Care Team:

Support@spcawake.org | 919-532-2088
200 Petfinder Lane | Raleigh, NC 27603