

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2023



**THE REASON
BEHIND THIS
GIANT SMILE**
PAGES 6 & 7

**SPCA HEADLINES
HEARD AROUND
THE WORLD**
PAGES 4 & 5

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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 59 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.



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Right: Kim Janzen,
President & CEO

A Thank You Meant for You

“We are located in a rural county that happens to be the third poorest in NC. Thank you, thank you for helping us. We are so grateful for allowing us to transfer Holly and her 7 puppies. Thank you for being a huge part of continuing our mission.”

A thank you card arrived in the mail last week. It was addressed to the Team at SPCA Wake – **but it was really meant for you.**

The note came from PAWS of Hertford County, a dynamic volunteer rescue group that works closely with the Hertford County Animal Shelter to save lives.

Hertford County, located in northeastern NC, is one of the 59 NC counties where SPCA Wake has established collaborative partnerships to transfer animals out of rural shelters and into our care. **These partnerships can mean the difference between euthanizing healthy animals or seeing them go to loving homes.**

A note like this drives home exactly why the SPCA of Wake County works hard every single day to save as many lives as we can. And although this thank you came to addressed to the SPCA – you are the one who has helped make it possible, and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

The generosity you share with us allows us to expand our life-saving services, and further our reach in the state. This means more pets can be saved, and more homes can be made complete. Thank YOU for being an essential part of this work!

Kim Janzen,
SPCA Wake President and CEO

SAFETY NET FOR SENIORS



At the age of 15, G-Man's owner needed to rehome him due to circumstances outside his control. Because of you, he has a safe, compassionate place to stay while finding a new family. (Available for adoption!)

“I’ve found that senior cats seem just so happy to be with you,” says Kim Flowers, SPCA Wake’s Senior Director of Operations. “Most, if not all, of the elderly cats in our adoption program have had a home at one point in their lives. Someone loved them and cared for them,” she continues.

Kim Flowers knows senior cats. In addition to overseeing SPCA Wake’s operations, including the intake of around a hundred senior cats each year, Flowers routinely opens her home to provide foster care for senior felines. Right now, that’s Jolene, a 21-year-old, lilac point Siamese who is both talkative and deaf. Jolene is inquisitive and loves outdoor walks in the sunshine on a cat leash.

The SPCA considers a cat to be a senior at the age of 10. Currently, there are 14 senior cats available for adoption from the SPCA. “We don’t consider senior pets unadoptable simply due to age,” explains Flowers. “In fact, we will seek out senior pets to take into our adoption program because we know we have the

medical and housing resources to give them the special care they need.”

Many seniors come into our care after their elderly owner moves into an assisted living facility or passes away.

Annabelle, a 12-year-old deep orange tabby girl, ended up at the county shelter after her owner passed away. Sadly, no next of kin came to reclaim her. 11-year-old Willow lost her home when her elderly owner moved into an assisted living facility. And then we have 14-year-olds Dora, Sissy and Smudge – a bonded trio of elder cats looking for a loving home to live out their best lives. Their previous owner was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and needed to move into a care facility.

“Part of the appeal of taking a senior cat into your life is the feeling that not only are you helping that cat, you are helping the person who once loved that cat,” says Flowers. “When I help a senior cat, it’s rewarding to feel like I’m helping that person too.”

These senior cats and others are available for adoption! If you’d like to meet one of our seniors, **please visit spcawake.org/adopt**.



Adopt me:
21-year old
Jolene.



Adopt me:
12-year old
Annabelle.



Adopt me:
11-year old
Willow.

STORIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Ronald's story reached over ten million people on social media.

RONALD THE "UNLUCKY DOG"

The Washington Post

After 14 rejections, a North Carolina dog found his forever home

Southern Living

After 14 Failed Adoptions, "Too Big" Puppy Finds Forever Home In North Carolina

A happy ending to end them all.

People

Ronald the Puppy Finds His Perfect Home After 14 Failed Adoptions

After seeing a now-viral post from a North Carolina shelter, Kierstin Davis, 28, acted fast and received the happy news that Ronald was coming home to her family on Jan. 12

One-year-old Ronald won hearts across the nation after a plea to help end his unlucky streak went viral online.

Over the previous weeks, **Ronald had fourteen interested families decide against adopting him** — some due to his large size (80 lbs.), some for his puppyish behavior. But all the same, Ronald couldn't catch a break. So we began to think, "this is a job for the internet."

When we shared Ronald's story online, we never imagined what would come next — over 70,000 people shared his story, **leading to features on national television and media interviews from around the globe.**

Needless to say, families unimpressed by Ronald's size began reaching out, and **before we knew it, Ronald became the newest member of a loving family** here in the Triangle. His adopters couldn't believe he'd been overlooked, saying he's great with their kids and "absolutely perfect."

Thank you for supporting SPCA Wake so that pets like Ronald can find their happy endings, however many tries it may take.



It turns out "15" was Ronald's lucky number after all.



BRUNO

THE ONE-EARED WONDER

After a difficult life of being chained up outside and losing his ear to a dog attack he couldn't escape, **your support helped Bruno find his first refuge at SPCA Wake.**

And then the one-eared dog stunned us by doing something we'd never seen before. Bruno tore the ear off his favorite stuffed toy — **the same ear he's missing himself.**

Photos of the duo went viral online, and overnight, Bruno was melting the hearts of millions across the world. His newfound fame came with dozens of calls about adoption, and the very next day, Bruno walked out our doors. His new dad is a Fort Bragg Army Specialist named Levi who promised to show Bruno unconditional love — and of course, his adoption was a "two-for"... **Bruno's stuffed toy was adopted right alongside him.**

Bruno's soulful eyes and matching toy captured hearts across the globe, leading to dozens of calls about adoption.



Southern Living

One-Eared Dog Stuns North Carolina Shelter By Removing Matching Ear From "Favorite" Stuffed Toy

The cutest twins we ever did see!



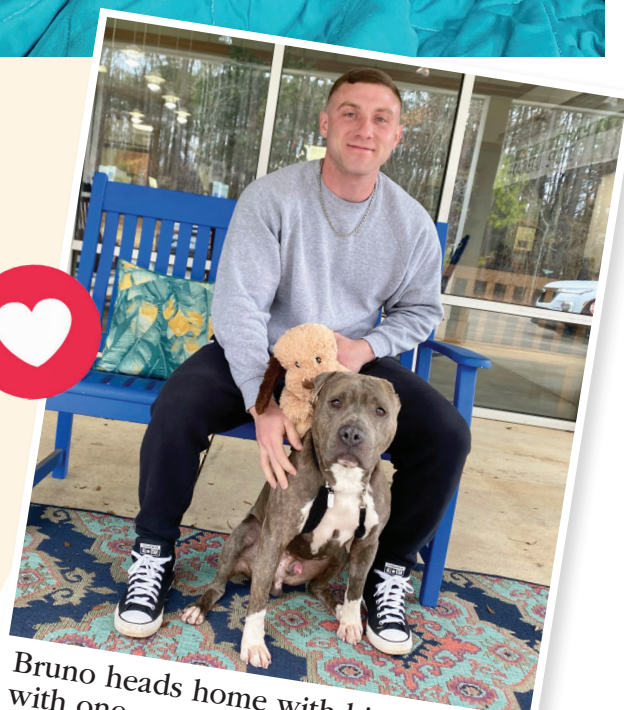
Shelter Dog With Missing Ear Modifies His Favorite Toy To Look Just Like Him

"The staff member who found this couldn't believe it" ❤️

People

One-Eared Pit Bull Removes Ear from His 'Favorite' Toy and Makes 'Best Friend Just Like Him'

Bruno, a North Carolina dog with one ear, removed the left ear off of his favorite stuffed animal — the same ear he has missing — while staying at North Carolina's SPCA of Wake County



Bruno heads home with his new dad, with one-eared best friend in tow.

HEALING HARPER



Harper enjoys daily stroller rides in the sun while she waits for a forever home.



After her difficult start to life, your support meant Harper could find love and specialized medical care at SPCA Wake.

When Harper first came through our doors, we imagined what her new future might hold. With optimism held tightly in our hearts, we dreamt of a special family — one with the patience to look beyond Harper's occasional accidents knowing she couldn't help it, the generosity to accept more veterinary expenses than a typical dog would need, and the compassion to see Harper for her joy and spirit on the inside rather than her obvious disability on the outside.

Thanks to your support, SPCA Wake is a safety net, providing life-saving medical care for special-needs pets like Harper in our community.

In our minds, this envisioned family was a dream come true. **But we hadn't dared imagine how extraordinary the reality would turn out to be.**

A Roadside Rescue

Last October, Chrystal Harper was driving through a rural part of a nearby town when something along the road caught her eye. She turned the car around, still questioning what she thought she saw. But indeed, there she was — a one-year-old dog dragging herself along the road, hind end tied up in a plastic trash bag.

Chrystal hoisted the young dog up into the back of her car, put her plans aside, and drove straight home to offer up a bowl of food.

The dog's back legs dragged limply behind her as she scooted between the food bowl and Chrystal's feet, offering lively smiles in thanks for her meal.

For the next week, Chrystal called nearly fifty local shelters, rescues, and vet clinics in search of help. Each one was either full or unable to take in a dog with such an injury — **but thanks to your generous support, Chrystal's call to SPCA Wake was met with open arms.**



Upon her arrival at the SPCA, we named the dog Harper to honor the compassionate human who rescued her.

Hope for Harper

A veterinary exam with the SPCA Wake medical team confirmed our fears — Harper would never walk again. A traumatic injury had left her paralyzed from the waist down, and her legs bore painful, open sores from dragging herself along rough terrain, oblivious to the toll it was taking on her body. **But Harper's unbridled joy and contagious smiles let us know that despite everything, she was going to be okay.** And thanks to your support, the SPCA Wake Medical team had the tools to treat what could be healed.

As we continued Harper's treatments, soothing her wounded legs with antibiotics and ointments, we arranged for special mobility tools to help her get around. We fitted Harper with a custom wheelchair and a special drag bag for paralyzed dogs so she could run and play without damaging her legs. On her first wheelchair try-on, Harper took off with such enthusiasm and inhibition that she nearly pulled over her handler. After a bit of practice, Harper could keep up with any other dog.

For the next several weeks, our Adoption team led the search for a loving family as Harper enjoyed daily stroller rides in the sun and play dates at every opportunity. Over a hundred days of searching went by until one day **we connected with a more perfect home for Harper than we could have imagined: the home of Zoey Meyer.**

Home of the Underdogs

Two years earlier, Zoey Meyer adopted a blind, eyeless dog from SPCA Wake named Dalton. Dalton became the brother to Zoey's dog Zazel, a paralyzed shepherd mix sporting a wheelchair of her own. Caring for the two special-needs dogs became a passion for Zoey, so when Zoey saw Harper on the SPCA's website, she knew Harper was meant to be family.

Harper joined Zoey's pack of underdogs just a few days later,



commemorating her adoption day with what must have been the world's cutest meet-and-greet with her two new special-needs siblings.

Thanks to your support, Harper found a home where rather than being the odd one out, she'd be the perfect fit. Our dream for Harper

had come true — to join a family where she is accepted just the way she is.

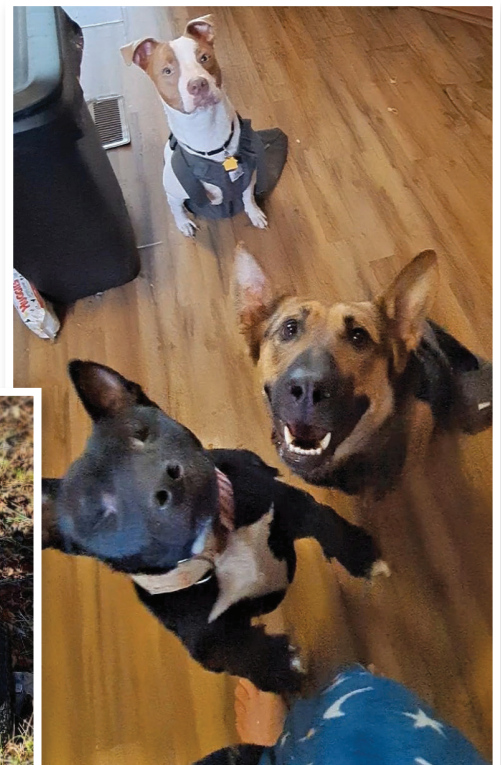
Thank you for supporting SPCA Wake to ensure dogs like Harper have a place to go when they need help the most. Because of you, pets like Harper can find the care they need at SPCA Wake. **Your support provides the individualized care, time, and love they need and paves the road to true fairytale endings.** For Harper, her new mom, and all of us — you made a dream come true. ♦



After 100 days in the shelter, Harper is wheeled out to meet her new family on adoption day.

Right & below:

Harper joins paralyzed sister Zazel and blind brother Dalton as the newest member of the family of "underdogs".





JUST FOR YOU: FREE ESTATE PLANNING TOOL

spcawake.org/plannedgiving



SCAN THIS CODE WITH
YOUR PHONE TO GET STARTED!



It's that time of year when many of our supporters like to turn their attention to estate planning.

Everyone needs a will, no matter the size of your assets. Passing along assets is a critical way to build security and wealth for the people you love. Plus, many of our supporters like to include gifts to the SPCA Wake in their will as a tax-smart way to give.

►NEW! Free Planning Tool

As a thank you for everything you make possible, SPCA Wake is offering a free new tool to all our supporters. This new tool, called FreeWill, makes creating a will accessible to everyone. It's a free, intuitive online estate planning tool. **It takes less than 20 minutes to write or update your legal will, at no charge.**

FreeWill is perfect for people with simple estates, but can also be used with a lawyer. For those with more complex needs, FreeWill can be used to start their plans and then finish with an attorney. Visit spcawake.org/plannedgiving to get started!

►Have You Already Made a Plan?

Please let us know if you have already included a gift to the SPCA of Wake County in your will or trust! We would love to thank you and invite you to join the North Carolina Legacy Society. Please take a

moment to let us know and complete our electronic notification form at spcawake.org/notify.

►North Carolina Animal Legacy Society

Designating SPCA Wake as a beneficiary in your estate plan makes you eligible for membership in the NC Animal Legacy Society. The Legacy Society is a group of individuals who are dedicated to helping animals in need now and into the future. By sharing your intentions, we are able to keep you informed on our progress. By becoming a member, you will receive the following:

- Annual Impact Report
- Quarterly SPCA Wake newsletters
- Monthly Brief from our President and CEO
- Opportunity to enroll in the SPCA Wake Peace of Mind Program

►Peace of Mind Program

As a member of the NC Animal Legacy Society, you can enroll in our Peace of Mind pet guardianship program. In the event you predecease your pet(s), members of the Legacy Society can rely on us to provide transitional care and find a permanent, loving home for your pets.

Please visit spcawake.org/plannedgiving for more information or contact: Kristin Brown, Director of Donor Engagement at plannedgiving@spcawake.org