

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2024

YOUR 2023 IMPACT REPORT

Pages 3&4

Pictured here:
Gibli the kitten is
extra warm and
poofy after her bath
and blow dry.
Next stop – home.

A LITTLE GIRL AND HER DOG: AN UNBREAKABLE BOND

PAGES 6&7

JOIN US
ONLINE AT
[SPCAWAKE.ORG](https://www.spcawake.org)

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE

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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 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, and Bluey the puppy. Bluey received lifesaving care at SPCA Wake after being brought to us as an emergency intake.



Much to Cheer, Still More to Do

Thank you for your incredible support in 2023! I am sincerely humbled by the lifesaving work you made possible. Saving animals takes a community and you’ve truly made a difference for those in need.

The stories in this issue and the numbers in our Impact Report (pages 3-4) share the scope of the positive impact we’ve made together.

While there is much to celebrate about 2023, we know we must do more. We continue to see the fallout from the extended pause in spay/neuter surgeries during the pandemic. Shelters and rescue groups across the state are at capacity, and people in our community are hurting.

Thanks to you, SPCA Wake is working harder than ever to keep pets in their homes and out of the shelter system. Our Community Impact program provides an array of people-focused services that make it possible for families to keep their beloved pets and remain whole through trying times. See pages 7-8 for a heartwarming example of this initiative.

This year marks the SPCA of Wake County’s 57th year of helping pets and people in our community. In 2024, we must continue to further our impact and expand our services to support more pets and people in need.

Whether you are a donor, volunteer, foster parent, adopter, or advocate – I look forward to working with you in the year ahead to do more than ever to transform the lives of the pets and people in our community and beyond.

With gratitude,

Kim Janzen,
SPCA Wake President and CEO

2023 IMPACT REPORT



Behind each number below, there's a pet, person, or family who felt *your* support in 2023. 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 Development | contact: mlamb@spcawake.org or 919.532.2086

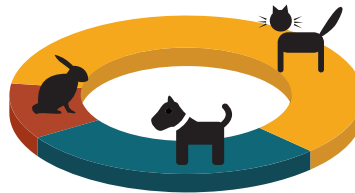
198,245 SERVICES TO ANIMALS

SPCA Wake provided a total of 198,245 services and items to animals in 2023.



3,531 LIVE OUTCOMES

- 3,496 animal adoptions
- 32 returned to owner or TNVR'd
- 3 transferred to partner groups



adoptions by species



2,021 PETS FROM NC COUNTY SHELTERS

transferred into SPCA Wake's care. SPCA Wake partners with municipal shelters across North Carolina to take in pets at immediate risk for euthanasia, or those who need veterinary care, rehabilitation, or more time to find a home.

15,510 VOLUNTEER HOURS



Volunteers, working both on-site and remotely, provided operational support equivalent to 7 full-time employees.

2,081 PETS FOSTERED



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

478 COMMUNITY CATS



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



5,562 ANIMALS SPAYED & NEUTERED

- 4,259 pets altered through the low-cost Saving Lives Clinic
- 1,303 pets altered through the spay/neuter voucher program

75,962 FIXES Number of pets spayed/neutered through the SPCA's Saving Lives Clinic Program since its opening in 2009

That's **509,715 births prevented** that likely would have needed shelter services.



1,221 PETS HELPED

at five low-cost Wellness Clinics. 729 families brought their pets to receive affordable, essential vet care, such as microchips and fundamental vaccines.



172,661 PET MEALS PROVIDED

Low-income households and homebound senior citizens receive pet food and supplies through partnerships with 20 local agencies, including Meals on Wheels of Wake County.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



92% of each donor dollar goes to programs & program support with 8% spent on fundraising.* SPCA Wake is nationally recognized for responsible financial stewardship and transparency to donors, earning high marks from both Guidestar and Charity Navigator.

*source: FY22 990 Tax Return (most recent 990)



OTHER ANIMAL OUTCOMES

SPCA Wake started 2023 with 343 animals in our care and took in an additional 3,572 animals throughout the year. Out of this total:

- 3,531 were live outcomes (see top of page)
- 47 died and 54 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.
- 283 were in our care on 12-31-23

2023 IMPACT REPORT CONTINUED

After a significant increase in demand for animal services following the COVID-19 pandemic, SPCA Wake launched the Pet Helpline in 2021 — a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to make it easy for our community to find pet-related support. The Pet Helpline connects people with pet resources and programs while also providing insight into what programs and services our community needs most.

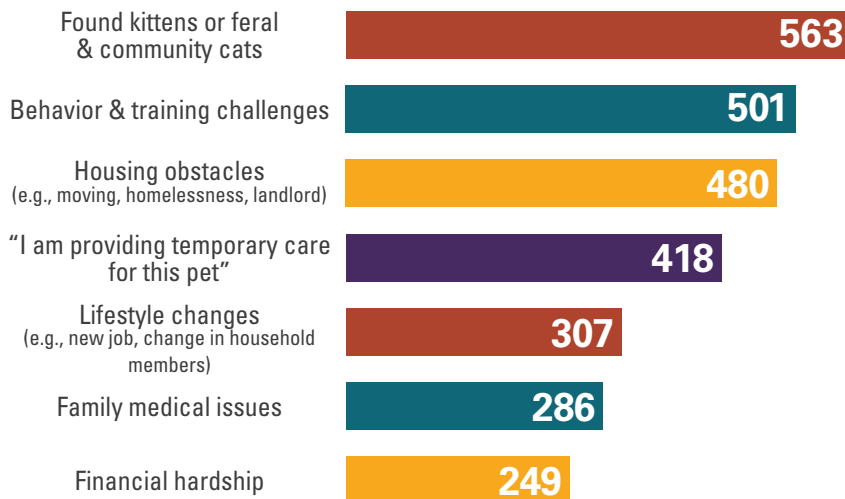
7,130 REQUESTS THROUGH PET HELPLINE

SPCA Wake's Pet Helpline, the first in our state, provides assistance to keep pets in homes, out of shelters, and improve both human and animal lives. Pet Helpline staff collaborates with all SPCA departments to provide a solution or additional resources tailored for each case.



TOP 5 TYPES OF HELPLINE REQUESTS RECEIVED

TOP 7 REASONS FOR REHOMING REQUESTS



In 2023, we took active steps to meet these evolving needs:

- **Establishing a behavior pilot program** with Triangle Pet Behavior to provide free behavior services to pets at risk of being surrendered to an animal shelter.
- **Partnering with Adopt A Pet** to offer an online platform for community members who want to rehome their pets outside of the shelter system.
- **Expanding the scale of our community and feral cat programs**, including adding a new Community Impact team member whose primary focus is connecting individuals with a variety of feline related services.

2023 CHALLENGES

Across our nation and our state, pets and people are struggling. Housing restrictions, financial instability, health conditions, and other challenges have led to local animal shelters facing an influx of surrenders as well as a decrease in adoptions.

As a leader in medical and behavioral rehabilitation in N.C., SPCA Wake has answered the call of many pets with complex needs to save those at immediate risk of euthanasia.

We are proud to be a safe place for special-needs animals. By nature, these pets require greater time and resources on their road to adoption, so providing special care on this scale has impacted our overall volume of pet intakes and adoptions.

We are committed to meeting the greatest needs in our community — family pet retention, pet rehoming outside of the shelter system, and reducing the euthanasia of adoptable animals. **But we need your help to continue this work.** Visit spcawake.org to learn how you can help save more lives by adopting, donating, fostering or volunteering.

Questions?

Contact Mondy Lamb, VP of Development, at mlamb@spcawake.org or 919.532.2086

JD'S NEW PURRPOSE



JD and Doreen posed for a photo one afternoon while visiting her mother's assisted living community.



JD loves his new purpose, and is adjusting very well!

“I love him. I always tell him daddy loves JD,” read the note scribbled on a sheet of paper and handed to a staff member in the SPCA parking lot. JD, the 15-year-old orange and white cat, sat in a cat carrier beside him, his giant green eyes looking up.

JD's owner had tried everything to avoid bringing him to a shelter. But after weeks of trying to find his cat a new home, he was out of options.

When all else failed, your support was the safety net this senior cat desperately needed. Little did we know JD was destined for a purpose greater than we could have foreseen.

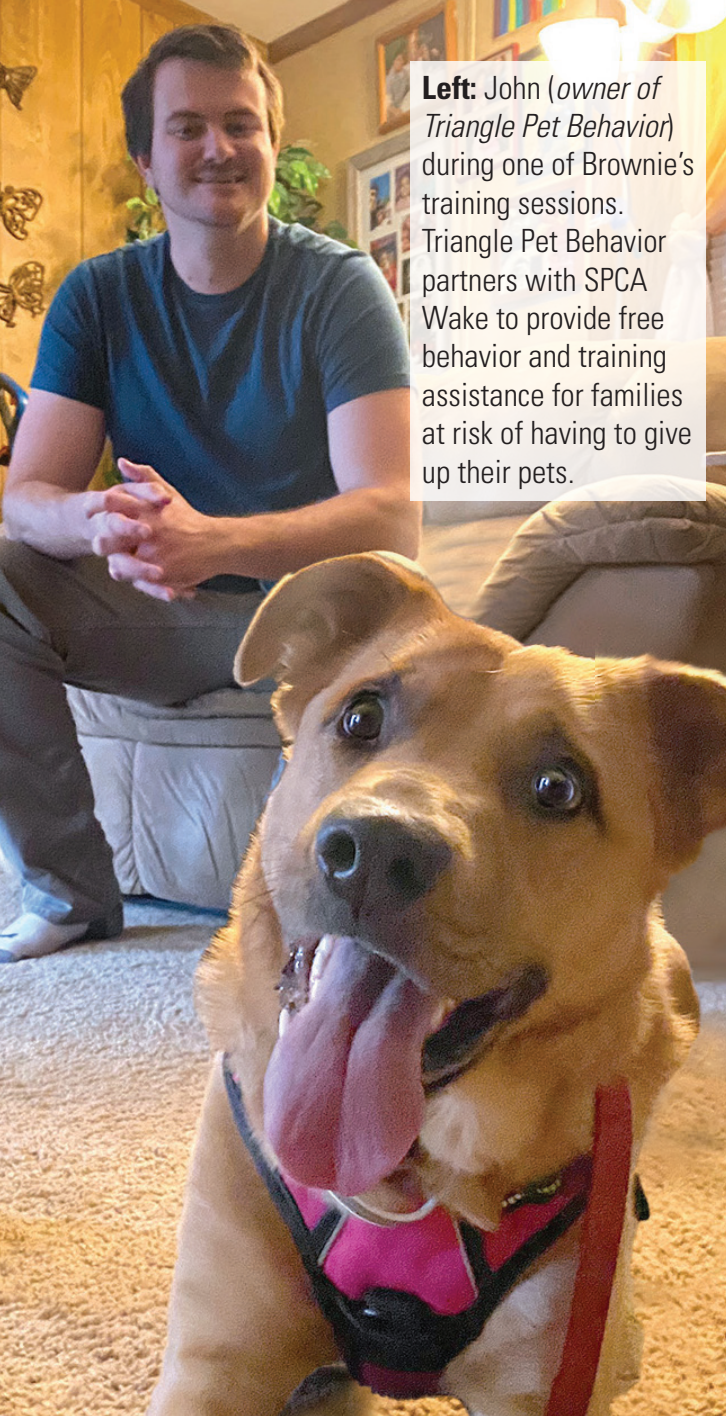
One week later

When Doreen arrived at the SPCA, she was on a mission to find her elderly mom a companion. After moving into assisted living, there was a particular cat-sized hole in her mom's life, and JD was a perfect fit. Amid their golden years, Doreen knew her mom would find a kindred spirit in JD.

Doreen's inkling was spot on. As soon as her mother set eyes on JD, there was an instant connection. Since his adoption, JD spends the days curled up next to his new human. **Doreen also noted JD consistently sets his paw on her mother's hand as they doze off together.** Thank you for helping JD find his new purpose in life.

THE NOTE LEFT BY JD'S FORMER OWNER:

“I love him. I always tell him daddy loves JD. He was a baby when I got him in 2008. I bottle fed him and raised him. I was forced out of one place due to it being sold. The place I'm in now does not allow cats and I've been trying to find him a home for five weeks. They told me I have to get rid of him today so I am bringing him to you. Please find him a good home, he is a loving cat. It is breaking my heart to have to do this. His name is JD. Please take care of him. I don't want to do this but I have to.”



Left: John (owner of Triangle Pet Behavior) during one of Brownie's training sessions. Triangle Pet Behavior partners with SPCA Wake to provide free behavior and training assistance for families at risk of having to give up their pets.

"STAY"-ING OUT OF THE SHELTER

A few months ago, Kim was in an impossible position. Their family dog, Brownie, who grew up cuddling and playing with her 10-year-old daughter Jessenia, began growling whenever Jessenia came near Brownie's spot on the couch.

Brownie had been an important part of their family since he was a puppy, but Brownie's recent change in behavior left Kim feeling at the end of her rope.

Before this, Kim's doctor had recommended Brownie as an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) to help Kim manage the immense stress and anxiety caused by her medical condition. Kim says Brownie has been a grounding presence for her ever since he was a puppy. Under the difficult circumstances of being a single mother on a fixed income, Brownie offers Kim comfort and companionship through the toughest days.

But things reached a breaking point when Jessenia told her mother that she'd become afraid of Brownie.

Kim couldn't afford professional training, and she feared her only option was the heart-breaking one – to give Brownie up to a high-intake shelter where she feared he'd likely be euthanized. That was until someone suggested Kim reach out to SPCA Wake for help.

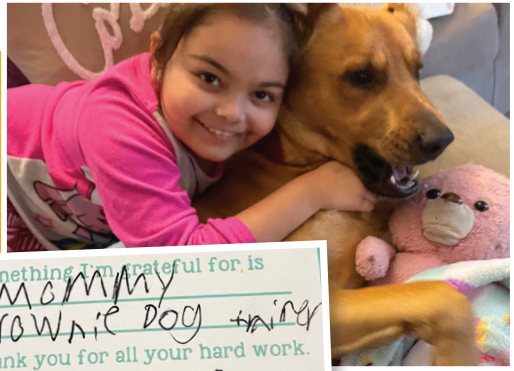
A YOUNG GIRL'S GRATITUDE

Each Christmas, Kim asks her daughter Jessenia to share what she is thankful for.

Kim and Jessenia recently worked with a free trainer through the SPCA Wake's Community Impact program to get help resolving behavior issues with their family dog, Brownie. So this year, 10-year-old Jessenia wrote that she was grateful for Brownie's trainer.

Because of you, this call for help was answered, and a little girl and her dog get to stay by each other's sides.

Thank you for being the reason programs like this are in place to help families in our community.



Something I'm grateful for is
MOMMY
BROWNIE DOG + TRAINER
Thank you for all your hard work.
Love, Jessenia

Above: A note written by 10-year-old Jessenia sharing that this Christmas, she was grateful for her dog Brownie's trainer.

Help is on the Way!

Since the launch of our Pet Helpline in 2021, we have been tracking the most common pet-related needs in our community. Upon seeing a great need for affordable pet training and behavior assistance (*see page 5*), **SPCA Wake expanded our services to offer free training support** through a partnership with Triangle Pet Behavior. When Kim reached out for help, she was grateful to learn that we had just launched a new program offering the exact support she needed.

After receiving Kim's call, we dispatched John, a training expert and owner of Triangle Pet Behavior, to visit the family's home and assess the situation. With seven years in animal care and behavior under his belt, John has seen it all – and **Kim was relieved to hear the hope in John's voice that Brownie's issues could be addressed.**

John visited the family to understand Brownie's behavior better, and offer his expert advice. He quickly identified Brownie's quirks and sensitivities and developed a training plan. Kim and Jessenia learned hands-on ways to work with Brownie and restore balance in their home. After just a few sessions, things were already getting better.

"My goal is to give families the tools to manage any current behavior problems *and* any future problems that may come up," says John. "I love helping families create a better relationship with their pets."

Over the past few months, continued training sessions have led to remarkable improvement in Brownie's concerning behaviors.

"Before, it was like walking on eggshells within our own space," says Kim, "but John saved Brownie's life and has made our life so much less stressful," she adds. **"It's been life-changing."**

Celebrate the Wins

Most pets who end up in shelters had homes to begin with. Without this pet behavior program, Brownie would likely have been one of them. But **because of your support, SPCA Wake's Community Impact team is equipped to offer local families the support they need** to resolve issues and make for better outcomes.

Thanks to donors like you, families like Kim's are kept whole. We are deeply grateful that with you by our side, we can continue to listen to our community's needs and find new ways to support families and their pets so best friends can stay together and more lives can be saved.

Thank you for being the reason families facing hardship in our community are met with compassion, love, and support.



Above: The bond between Jessenia and Brownie is undeniable.

Below: Kim and Jessenia when Brownie joined their family!



John provides fear-free, positive reinforcement training techniques that aim to keep families together and pets out of the shelter. A win-win for everyone involved!



JOIN THE MONTHLY-GIVING CLUB

Scan with your
phone camera!



Every day, pets arrive at our door needing urgent 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 animal lovers like you!**

To sign up, scan the QR code above, visit spcawake.org/monthly or call 919-532-2082.

SPOTLIGHT ON: THE SPAY/NEUTER FUND

Our decades-long investment in community spay/neuter efforts has profoundly decreased the rate of animals euthanized in local shelters. We know that prevention, through high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter is the most effective way to reduce the number of healthy animals euthanized in shelters

That's why we offer thousands of deeply discounted surgeries each year. We also provide a number of fee-waived (free) surgeries to families facing financial hardship. **This year, we have committed to providing, at minimum, 360 free surgeries for dogs and cats. We have \$7,000 of designated funding for this program, but need \$26,100 more to fully fund this opportunity.**

Please consider a gift to the SPCA's Spay/Neuter Fund to provide surgery for a pet in need.

SAVE ON YOUR TAXES AND HELP ANIMALS

Are You 70½ or Older?

If you are an animal lover seeking to make a positive impact and save on taxes, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the SPCA of Wake County could be an ideal way to achieve that goal. This giving option has gained popularity in recent years with SPCA donors and can be especially advantageous for individuals over the age of 70½ who have traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

SPCA Wake is set up to receive your QCD!

For more information about how to make a gift from your IRA and why it may provide a tax savings to you, visit: spcawake.org/QCD or contact Mondy Lamb at support@spcawake.org or 919-532-2086.

Please note: our Tax ID Number is 56-0891732