

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY
ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2024

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BLACK
AND
WHITE
AND
QUACKS
LIKE A
DUCK?**

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COMMON
SCENTS**

Pictured here:
Winston steals hearts
with his soft ears and
adorable head tilt!

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ONLINE AT
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 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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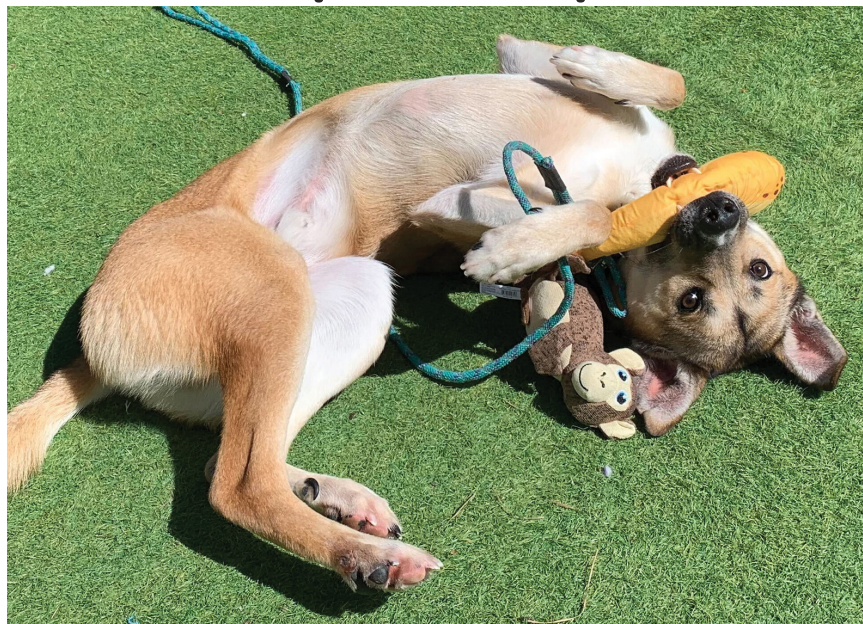
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Otis is a Very Good Boy



Above: Otis enjoys playtime in the sun at SPCA Wake's Intake Center. Otis was originally abandoned at the SPCA in late 2022, and he has been in and out of adoptive homes ever since.

I fell in love with this picture of Otis.

This Shepherd/Husky mix is a big, energetic guy weighing in at over 70lbs. He's what our behavior expert affectionately calls "bossy," and, she adds, "he's still learning to share, and he needs more manners."

While he's waiting for adoption, our animal care professionals are training him to be a better version of himself. He has shown consistent progress in his behavior training and knows sit, stay, catch, and drop it. Otis is a dog who was given up and given up on, but with your help, we are turning his story around.

Otis isn't alone. Hundreds of animals come to SPCA Wake each month, hoping for a second chance and a family to love them.

You are the reason we are able to help. All of our work is made possible because of donor support.

I have a request to make. Otis and the SPCA could really use your help this time of year. Like so many, we are feeling the effects of inflation and increased cost of pet food and medicine. **Will you consider a gift of any size to help?**

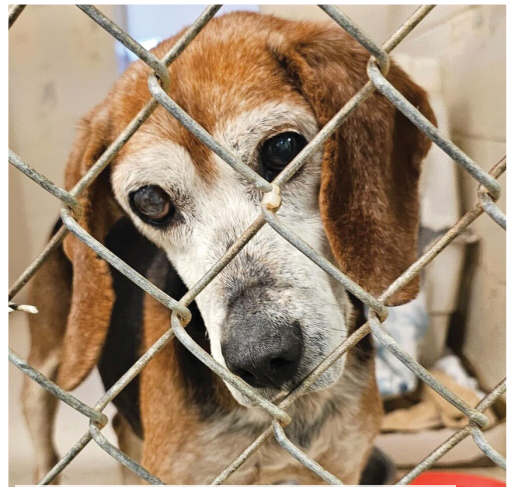
I have good news — beginning May 15, for every dollar donated, Care First Animal Hospital will match up to \$200,000 with donated veterinary services to provide critical medical care for the homeless pets at SPCA Wake. If you give today with the enclosed envelope, we will apply your gift to the match! On behalf of Otis and all the pets here — thank you.

Mondy Lamb
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MAKING SENSE OF COMMON SCENTS

Winston goes with the flow,
taking it all in, one sniff at a time.



In addition to a myriad of other conditions, Winston suffered from a bulging, painful eye.

Beagles are known for their excellent noses – which is lucky for 10-year-old Winston because, for a long time, it's the only thing he had to help him survive.

We'll never know what Winston went through before he was rescued, but his condition the day we met him spoke for itself. He was blind, deaf, full of parasites, and suffering from a bulging, painful eye on his left side. His fur was dirty and itchy, and his breath smelled of the rot from his old teeth.

But we took comfort in imagining Winston's journey to SPCA Wake from his perspective:

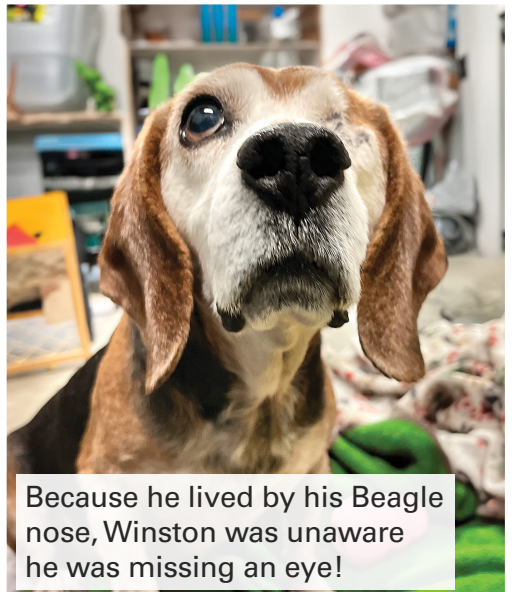
One day, he is alone in a quiet, dark world, sniffing around desperately for a hint of food or the scent of a threat. He's hungry, thirsty, and his body hurts all over. Then suddenly, a loving touch. He feels himself being picked up and taken on a bumpy ride to an unfamiliar

place. More loving touch. A big bowl of food, a long-overdue bath, and a warm place to sleep. Each day, the pain in his body gets smaller and smaller — and then one day, that throbbing feeling in his left eye completely disappears.

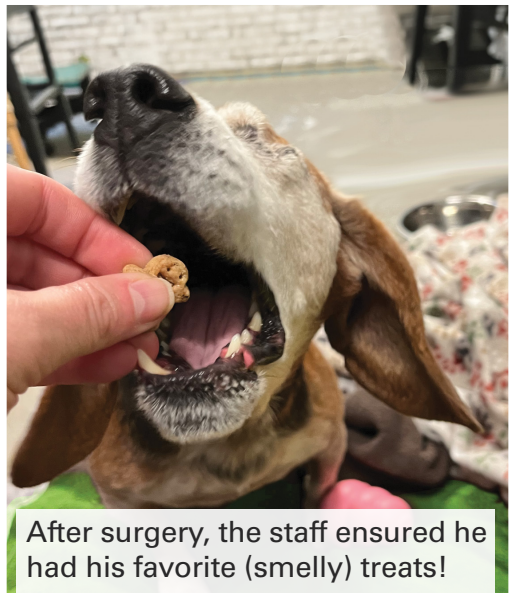
And every day after that, things just continue to get better than they were the day before.

This transformation is the gift you gave Winston. Your support brought him to a place where he is surrounded by people who want nothing more than to make him happy and comfortable. And soon, a loving family will take the reins to continue giving him this gift for the rest of his golden years.

Thank you for making the world a place of compassion and care for animals like Winston. Because of your generous support, Winston has gone from being a forgotten dog to a cherished friend with a brighter future ahead.



Because he lived by his Beagle nose, Winston was unaware he was missing an eye!



After surgery, the staff ensured he had his favorite (smelly) treats!



St. John's Metropolitan Community Church members Dee and Stephanie help SPCA staff members Gina and Ellen unload supplies.

A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT

In the hustle and bustle of Raleigh's city streets, it's not uncommon to encounter individuals experiencing homelessness. What may surprise some, however, is how many of them have pets by their sides. Despite the challenges of living on the streets, these individuals have found friendship and unconditional love in their animal companions.

For many homeless individuals, their pets are their lifeline, offering a sense of purpose and belonging in a world that can often be unwelcoming. Many pet owners report that their animals give them a reason to keep going, even on the toughest days.

Despite facing their own struggles, these owners will often prioritize the well-being of their companion animals, ensuring they have enough food, water, and shelter to survive the harsh realities of street life. Finding a shelter that will accept pets can be difficult, and accessing veterinary care and pet supplies can be a particular challenge.

However, thanks to two new partnerships with St. John's Metropolitan Community Church and the Wake County Women's Center, SPCA Wake can provide some support to these pet owners.

St. John's and the Women's Center are both significantly impacting the lives of our unhoused community members. St. John's runs a shelter for men, a shelter for women, and, on very cold nights, a White Flag emergency shelter. The

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAMMING:

SPCA Wake is making a huge impact on families struggling to keep their pets in their homes and out of animal shelters. We work to bridge the gap between the safety net services available for people and those available for their pets.

Keeping these pets with their owners and out of the already-overwhelmed municipal shelter system is a priority for us, and [your generous donations to SPCA Wake support this important community work.](#)

Women's Center serves marginalized single women experiencing homelessness.

SPCA Wake is helping these human shelters transform some designated spaces into pet-friendly accommodations stocked with supplies.

"Our commitment is to help these human shelters with the housing, care, and feeding of their clients' pets," said Molly Stone, Community Impact Director. **"These pet-friendly spaces will help reach people whose desire to remain with their pets may have prevented them from receiving safe shelter services in the past,"** said Stone.

SPCA Wake's role will be to make it as easy as possible for the teams of dedicated people-carers to welcome pets into their shelters.

MAKING AN IMPACT FOR SENIORS

SPCA Wake is making a huge impact in the lives of low-income families and homebound seniors with our Pet Food Assistance Program. The program, which provides much-needed pet food to those who may struggle to afford it, is a lifeline for many in the community who want to ensure their pet companions are fed and cared for.

SPCA Wake provides support directly to homebound seniors in need with in-home deliveries of pet food and supplies. We also provide food pick-up options for families struggling with temporary financial hardship.

This past year, we have grown our partnership with Meals on Wheels of Wake County (MOW). SPCA Wake distributes food to MOW clients in two ways: First, we deliver pet food to the MOW Distribution Center for delivery to their daily clients. Second, we distribute pet food directly to clients who attend area Friendship Cafes.

The MOW Friendship Cafe program provides seniors with daily meals at various congregate locations in the community, opportunities to participate in multiple activities included in the program, and, crucially, a place to experience robust social interactions and form meaningful interpersonal connections. SPCA staff and volunteers bring pet food and supplies to six Cafe locations each month, and the two most recent additions are Capitol Towers Apartments and the Rosenwald School.



Pictured: Community Impact Director Molly Stone shares a moment of fellowship with a pet-owning participant at a recent Friendship Cafe.

HEALTHY PETS, HEALTHY COMMUNITY

On March 2, SPCA Wake hosted the first of four community Wellness Clinics for 2024. This low-cost/no-cost vaccine and microchip clinic for dogs and cats drew in a crowd of pet owners eager to ensure the health and well-being of their furry friends.

That day, 271 dogs and cats received vaccines and/or microchips, plus free collars and engraved tags, as part of SPCA Wake's effort to keep pets with their families and out of the shelter system.

Volunteers at the event worked tirelessly to check attendees in, administer vaccines, and provide information about ongoing pet care. "These wellness clinics are important because they help pet owners who cannot otherwise afford to do these things," said Volunteer Nadia Chamberlin. "These events make a huge difference in the lives of pets and their owners."

SPCA Wake's commitment to affordable and accessible pet healthcare is a testament to our dedication to improving the lives of animals in the community. To be notified when slots open up for the next clinic, please email wellness@spcawake.org.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND TO VACCINE SPONSOR PETCO LOVE!



JOIN US ONLINE AT [SPCAWAKE.ORG](https://www.spcawake.org) | 5

THE MYSTERY OF THE PIGMENTLESS PUPPY



Soon after arriving at SPCA Wake, our partners at Care First Animal Hospital did a thorough exam and a series of tests to better understand the cause of Dempsey's head tilt.

With one look at Dempsey, we knew his case was unusual. The little puppy's gaze swung around the room aimlessly; his teeth and gums were stained an unnatural shade of blue, and he held a strange posture with his head always tilted to his left.

The same slew of questions entered every person's mind in the room. Can he see us? Was he poisoned? Did he eat something to cause this? Will he be okay?

To help solve this medical mystery, we took Dempsey to Care First Animal Hospital for an urgent exam. A series of tests shed more light on this puppy's long list of concerns.

Dempsey is completely deaf and partially blind, and he appeared to have eaten rat poison. Some cognitive deficit was causing his



Because of your support, we promised Dempsey we'd do everything we could to keep him happy and healthy and give him a family to love.

permanent head tilt, and he was most likely the result of irresponsible breeding.

The good news is, after some supportive veterinary care and monitoring, Dempsey was stable and no longer in danger. But, whether caused by genetic misfortune or poison, Dempsey's limitations would be with him for the rest of his life.

Despite his challenges, Dempsey is as happy-go-lucky as any other puppy – perhaps more so! He bounces around his room, scarfs down his treats, and showers kisses on any visitor who comes his way.

With the right family and a few adaptations, this special puppy is destined for a long, joyful life, spreading compassion and cheer wherever he goes. **And thanks to your generous support, Dempsey found himself in just the right place to be loved and supported on the road to adoption.**



Duckie enjoys the fresh air on her personal "catio" at the home of her foster family.



A SENIOR CAT LEFT TO FEND FOR HERSELF? NOT ON OUR WATCH

It wasn't long after Duckies' elderly owners passed away that their children began making estate plans for the house. While the house was accounted for, they had one nuisance they'd rather ignore—Duckie, their parents' senior cat.

They stopped feeding and caring for Duckie. They kicked her outside and started shouting at her to go away. Concerned neighbors called a local rescue, an SPCA Wake transfer partner, for help.

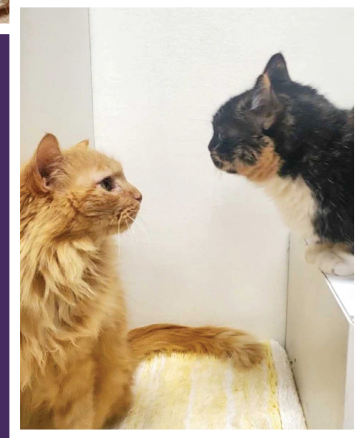
"If the new homeowners didn't accept her being there, she'd have to fend for herself." Those were the first words the SPCA's rescue partner heard upon arrival at the property. What this senior cat needed most at this time was compassion and a kind heart. And that is precisely what she received the moment she jumped in her pet taxi, was packed into the rescue's car, and they drove down the road.

Staff didn't take long to understand the logic behind her name, Duckie. She quacked — like a duck — every time she meowed. Her deep, quack-like meow made her an instant favorite among staff. **Because of your support, she is loved, safe, and enjoying her favorite chewy treats daily.** Duckie is currently enjoying peace and quiet with an SPCA Wake foster family. **Thank you for being there for Duckie at a time when she needed compassion the most.**



Oswald and Ginny share sweet moments every day.

LOVE AFTER LOSS



For Ginny the cat, it was one bad thing after another. In a short span of time, she lost her home, her owner, and then her cat brother Yoyo. She was left depressed and lonely.

We watched Ginny try and try again to nuzzle with the other cats at the SPCA, but each time, they would swat or run away. That was until a few weeks later when a new cat named Oswald was introduced to her room — and it was love at first sight.

Almost instantly, Ginny and Oswald became attached at the hip. They groomed and cuddled each other day in and day out. Ginny had finally found friendship and love once more.

So to make sure Ginny won't have to say anymore goodbyes, we made it official — Ginny and Oswald would be a "package deal," and wherever Oswald would go, Ginny would go too — including their forever home.

Thanks to your support, these two star-crossed cats will get the fairytale ending they deserve — by each other's sides.



CATS COFFEE CAFFEINE

SAVING LIVES ONE CUP CAT AT A TIME!

Met our new adoption partner – Purr Cup Café! You may be thinking, “Wait, how does a café save lives?” **Purr Cup Café isn’t your ordinary coffee house. It’s a cat café!** Here’s how it works: the SPCA provides the café with a constant supply of adoptable cats, and the café helps them find homes. It’s that simple (*plus, it’s only a ten-minute drive from the SPCA Pet Adoption Center*).

Shelters nationwide need help with an influx of pets needing space. Available kennel space is a scarce and coveted resource. Last year, thanks to your support, **SPCA Wake found homes for 2,289 cats.** We hope to find even more in 2024.

Every day, the SPCA receives calls from shelter partners across the state pleading for us to transfer cats like Misty (*the playful, gray cat pictured above*), who was lingering at the Warren County municipal shelter.

Staff at the Warren County shelter loved her antics and noted how Misty would fall asleep in the middle of her kennel, forcing them to clean around her (*and she wouldn’t take no for an answer*). **However, as each day passed, Misty witnessed more cats and kittens arriving, and the kennel space was running low.**

That’s when the SPCA received a call to assist. Donor support like yours allowed us to take Misty into the SPCA’s adoption program. Her carefree attitude melted our staff’s hearts, and her passive sass added to her charm. We knew the perfect spot for Misty to find a home – Purr Cup Café.

This café opens up more adoption spaces at the SPCA, which allows the SPCA to take in more pets from municipal shelters across NC!

Purr Cup Café provides space for cats like Misty, who may take longer to find a family. We are so incredibly grateful for this opportunity to save more lives.



MISTY



Hundreds of photos (*like this one*) line the walls of Purr Cup Café showing adopters and their new cats.

PURR CUP CAFÉ

210 Prospect Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27603

While walk-ins are welcome, reserving a time slot in advance is recommended.

919-322-4003

PURRCUPCAFE.COM