

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2025

**PICTURED HERE:
RESCUED!**

At the SPCA Pet Adoption Center, Mrs. Puff enjoys her first taste of freedom after being rescued from confinement in a high-volume commercial dog breeding facility.

A RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK

PAGES 6 & 7

A NEW HOPE FOR PUPPIES AND KITTENS

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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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Pictured right:
Kim Janzen at the future site of the Pet Admission and Resource Center as the construction team pours the foundation slab.



Recently, a few supporters have asked me how SPCA Wake is faring in these economically uncertain times.

Like other animal welfare organizations across the country, SPCA Wake is experiencing a decline in charitable giving—in both the number and amount of individual donations. Our year-to-date donations are down by \$175,000. These funds are vital to our daily, lifesaving work and without them, animal lives may be at risk.

Honestly, this decline comes at the worst possible time. Spring always brings its own set of challenges with an enormous influx of kittens and puppies. However, this year has presented the additional challenge of a 43% increase in the number of incoming animals with known medical issues.

The good news is that our team of staff and volunteers are up for the challenge. With two full-time veterinarians, our medical team has the skills, knowledge and experience to provide the best possible care to our medically fragile pets, and our veterinary partners at Care First Animal Hospital provide extraordinary care for many of our most critical cases.

SPCA Wake has seen challenging times before, but because of YOU, we've never had to face those challenges alone. You are the hero we know we can count on. The animals, the people, and the communities that rely on us are incredibly fortunate to have you looking out for them.

Your contribution—be it financial or in the form of your time and support—makes a profound difference. It is only with your help that we can continue our vital programs, from veterinary care and rescue operations to community outreach. Together, we can create a better tomorrow for the pets and people in our community.

Thank you for being an invaluable part of the SPCA of Wake County. Your continued support, especially during challenging times, means everything. We cannot do this without you, and we are grateful for every effort you make on behalf of our mission.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Kim Janzen
President and CEO

So far, 19 puppies have received the monoclonal antibody treatment, including Gazpacho, whose litter developed parvovirus.

A MEDICAL REVOLUTION IS HERE

A new monoclonal antibody treatment developed to treat parvo is changing the game and saving the most vulnerable shelter animals—puppies and kittens. But it's not cheap.

In animal shelters across North Carolina, unvaccinated puppies and kittens are at risk of contracting a highly contagious and often fatal disease: parvovirus.

While parvovirus primarily affects dogs, the panleukopenia virus, which impacts cats, is also a type of parvovirus. Both diseases can cause similar, devastating symptoms and tend to be fatal for young, unvaccinated animals. In shelters, these contagious diseases can spread rapidly.

A revolutionary new treatment for parvovirus has recently become available. This treatment uses laboratory-engineered antibodies that emulate the body's natural immune response to combat the virus. Known as Canine Parvovirus Monoclonal Antibody, this therapy shortens the duration of a parvovirus infection and alleviates its symptoms.

"This treatment is game-changing," says SPCA Wake Veterinarian Dr. Zurlinden. "Municipal shelters see parvo all the time, and they don't have the resources to treat it, so euthanasia is automatic, and that's the reality of the situation. But being here at SPCA Wake, where we can take animals from anywhere, I really think having these tools can make a big difference."

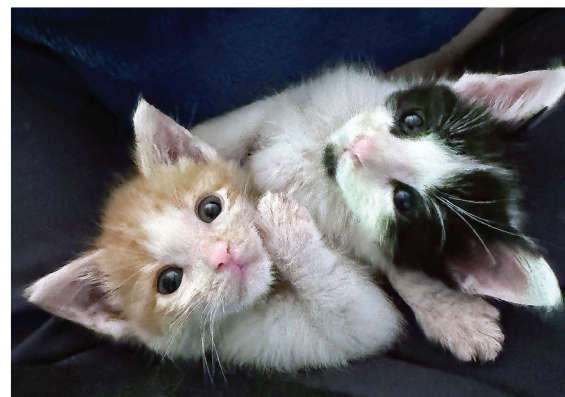
Since the SPCA began administering this monoclonal antibody treatment in late 2024, more

than 19 canines and 33 felines have received treatment—and the recovery stories have been remarkable. After treatment, symptoms often lessen quickly, and many animals recover within days.

One SPCA kitten foster parent who was caring for Hall and Oates (*pictured above*) said this: "After they tested positive for panleuk, all my experience told me I was going to have to watch them slowly die over the next 24 hours, no matter what I did. But within 24 hours of receiving the antibody injection, they were starting to show interest in playing. Now, they are on track to be adopted!"

The monoclonal antibody treatment is effective but pricey. It costs \$235 for one dose. Dosage is weight dependent, so puppies will often require more than one dose. It costs \$2,640 per package but the impact it is having on the most vulnerable pets in our care is priceless.

Would you be interested in helping fund this treatment and other lifesaving medical needs? Contact Mondy Lamb at MLamb@spcawake.org or Kassie at 919-532-7065.



ABOVE: Kittens Hall & Oates made a full recovery after testing positive for feline panleukopenia, a devastating disease.



Your support helped Cannoli beat the odds after he was diagnosed with the deadly parvovirus.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



WHAT BAD BREEDERS LEAVE BEHIND

The hidden reality behind pet store puppies

Left: Jasper's clear signs of neglect are all too familiar to SPCA Wake's intake team, who work hard to rescue and rehabilitate puppy mill victims year after year—but it doesn't have to continue this way.

Not all puppies get the same start in life. While they may appear healthy and well cared for, the conditions they come from can tell a different story—especially for the parent dogs left behind.

Some dogs are bred by responsible breeders (yes, there are good breeders out there) who prioritize the dogs' well-being. But too many are born into operations where the parent dogs are kept in horrible conditions and forced to produce litter after litter.

Jasper, pictured here, knows this all too well. He was one of 40 small dogs abandoned in a single room, left with no food or water after the owners caught wind that law enforcement would be investigating. By the time officers arrived, the owners had fled, leaving the dogs behind.

When we first met Jasper, his tangled fur was heavy with dirt, his tiny frame trembling as he shied away from touch. He didn't yet know that hands could be gentle or that voices

could be kind. Earning his trust would take time, patience, and care—things that, thanks to your support, we could give him.

Sadly, stories like Jasper's aren't uncommon. Many puppies sold through online ads, pet stores, and unverified breeders come from places where profit is prioritized over welfare.

In these high-volume breeding operations, dogs are often kept in cramped, filthy conditions with little socialization or medical care. Their puppies, clean and eager, may look no different from those raised by responsible breeders—but the suffering behind the scenes tells another story.

Change takes awareness. By choosing responsible breeders or adopting from shelters and rescues, **our community can take a stand against inhumane breeding.**

Left: Although Jasper may never fully recover from his past neglect, your support provided the special care he needed to have the best possible chance at a happy future.

And for dogs like Jasper, your support provides not just safety, but a future filled with the love and care they deserve.





PICTURED: Archibald (orange medium hair) and Kazo (buff short hair) cuddled together every day after meeting at the SPCA. At the Pet Adoption Center, many of our adoption-ready cats live in communal, or shared, rooms.

A FELINE LOVE STORY

An unintended perk of housing cats together: sometimes they fall in love

Archibald and Kazo came into the care of SPCA Wake around the same time after they were rescued from separate situations—Archibald from a crowded county shelter, and Kazo from living outside with a badly injured leg.

In fact, Kazo's leg was not only injured but had been broken some time ago and healed poorly. One of the first things we were able to do to help relieve his chronic pain was to amputate his right hind leg.

Despite their different origins, Archibald and Kazo had something in common. They both were positive for feline leukemia (FeLV). FeLV is a contagious viral disease that weakens a cat's immune system, making them more vulnerable to infections and other illnesses over time. **But at SPCA Wake, there is new hope for cats living with this disease.** (See info box at right.)

Because FeLV is contagious to other cats, felines with this disease often end up on their own. But with Archibald and Kazo arriving around the same time, we housed the two together, unaware of the love story that would unfold as a result.

Soon, our team noticed a bond forming between the two—they stuck to each other like glue,

often cuddling in various corners of the room and grooming one other. As a few weeks passed, the two cats continued to grow closer. **We saw how much comfort they took in each other's presence.** Seeing their friendship blossom and knowing how often FeLV+ cats are isolated from other cats, we decided the only thing to do was adopt them into a new home together. It was risky to do this since FeLV+ cats already face challenges at finding homes.

But in early March, Kazo and Archibald found their new family and went home together. Thank you for giving these two best friends the second chance to stay side-by-side for years to come.



There's new hope for FeLV+ cats. Help us spread the word!

FeLV+ cats make great companions, but they're often overlooked for adoption. Scan this QR code or visit spcawake.org/felv to watch SPCA Veterinarian Dr. Zurlinden's short video explaining FeLV.



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YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



Left: X-rays showed an entire cob of corn was lodged in Zeus' intestines.



GREEK GOD OF THE CORN COB

When a call comes into SPCA Wake for a dog like Zeus, acting fast means the difference between life and death. Locals had seen Zeus cowering under a house for days on end as cars rushed down the highway just a few yards away. People noticed he oddly ate sticks while refusing normal food or water. Fortunately, someone recognized these were signs of an emergency and called for help.

There was no luxury of time to bring Zeus to our shelter—we arranged to have him sent straight to the ER. X-rays and blood tests revealed a corn cob lodged in Zeus' intestines, which had sent his systems spiraling dangerously out of control. **The hourglass on Zeus' life was running out fast, and immediate surgery to remove the life-threatening obstruction was his only hope.**

The emergency procedure was intense, and Zeus' prognosis was uncertain for days. But Zeus proved to be a fighter. Slowly, he regained his strength. First, he lifted his head, then he wagged his tail, and suddenly, he was back on his feet, raring to play.

Now known as Claude, he is affectionately called "Claudie Buns" by the family's two sons. He is now loved deeply, wears stylish sweaters, plays in a big backyard, and enjoys naps by the fireplace.

When every second mattered, we didn't have to hesitate to take action—we knew you were there to help save this precious life. Thank you for being a hero for Zeus and so many others so they can go on to change the lives of their new families and spend each day making memories.

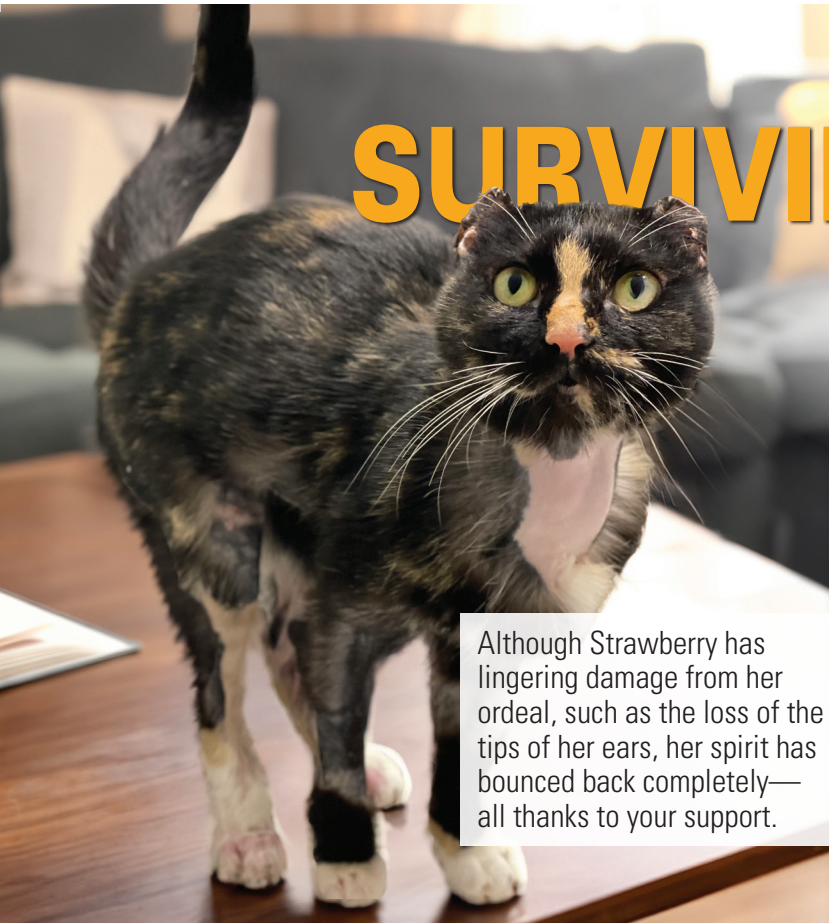


The love shared by Claude and his family is all thanks to your compassionate support.



Claude and the boys took advantage of the snow days to make lots of new memories!

SURVIVING AGAINST ALL ODDS



Although Strawberry has lingering damage from her ordeal, such as the loss of the tips of her ears, her spirit has bounced back completely—all thanks to your support.

There's no easy way to talk about what happened to Strawberry. Although much of it remains a mystery, what we do know is nothing short of gut-wrenching.

Strawberry was discovered soaked head to tail in gasoline. She was acting poorly, clearly in a state of medical crisis. Later, at the emergency vet hospital, x-rays revealed bizarre items in her stomach, including a dime as well as small chunks of plastic and metal.

Unlike dogs, cats aren't known for accidentally eating non-food items—our medical team believes she was experiencing such desperate starvation that she tried to eat anything she could find.

Strawberry's condition was dire, and for days, we weren't sure if she would survive. But thanks to you, we never gave up hope. Through days of touch-and-go care with the help of our partners at Care First Veterinary Hospital, Strawberry slowly showed signs that she might pull through.

Unfortunately, the gasoline did extreme damage to her skin. Her recovery resembled that of a burn victim, but despite that, her spirit held strong. **She leaned her head into pets and surrendered her trust to the veterinary team.** As she slowly regained strength, her loving personality began to emerge. In fact, one of the veterinary technicians

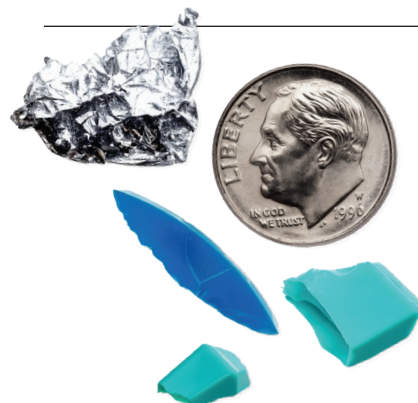


Your support provided the emergency care that saved Strawberry's life after she was discovered drenched in gasoline, not eating, and struggling to stand.

at Care First became so smitten with the lovely cat in her arms, she decided she never wanted to part with Strawberry.

Now, thanks to you, Strawberry has miraculously pulled through. She has already joined her adopter at home and begun exploring her space with curiosity and verve.

There could easily have been an ending to this story that was not so happy. But your ongoing support means that pets like Strawberry are treated with all the love and support that a family pet would be—because in times like these *we* are their family. **Thank you for making this ending a happy one.**



LEFT: Some of the strange items found in Strawberry's stomach during her emergency care.



YOU MEAN EVERYTHING

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.

Financial support is our greatest need in order to continue providing lifesaving care to the homeless animals relying on us. Our knowledgeable Donor Care Team would love to help you by providing more information on the many ways you can make an impact for the pets and people in our community. See below for our Donor Care Team contact information.

MATCHING GIFT ALERT!

Our Summer Matching Medical Challenge is back for June 2025! This June, for every dollar donated, the generous veterinarians at Care First Animal Hospital will match up to \$150,000 with donated veterinary services to provide critical medical care for the homeless pets at SPCA Wake.

Thank you for your continued support.

– Mondy Lamb, VP of Development | MLamb@spcawake.org

SCAN HERE TO DONATE
ONLINE, OR VISIT
SPCAWAKE.ORG/DONATE



Use these details when giving through DAFs, IRAs or when Estate Planning:

OUR TAX ID#: 56-0891732

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

Contact our Donor Care Team:

Email: support@spcawake.org

Call: 919-532-2083

200 Petfinder Lane | Raleigh, NC 27603

WAYS TO GIVE

IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

Are You 70½ or Older? SPCA Wake is set up to receive your Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This giving option can be especially advantageous for people over the age of 70½ who have traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

GIFTS OF STOCK

Donating stocks is fast, easy and can help you avoid capital gains taxes. You'll receive a tax-deductible receipt for the full fair market value. Please email support@spcawake.org for our Stock and Mutual Fund Transfer Instructions.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Put your DAF dollars to work now and invest in programming to improve our community! Contact your DAF holder today and send a gift to the animals.

LEGACY & PLANNED GIVING

Leave a legacy of love with a planned estate gift benefitting the animals and lifesaving programs at SPCA Wake.

Visit: spcawake.org/plannedgiving

WORKPLACE GIVING

Maximize your giving to the animals by asking your employer if they offer matching gift opportunities.

MONTHLY GIVING

Monthly donors make a big impact year round! Your gifts add up to make a lifesaving difference. Signing up is easier than ever at spcawake.org/monthly

BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS

Make a difference and demonstrate your values to customers by partnering with SPCA Wake through our Companies That Care program. Visit spcawake.org/care

HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

Give a dedicated gift in honor or memorial of a loved one, and choose a recipient to be notified of the gift. Visit: spcawake.org/donate and check the "Dedicate my donation" option.