

CRITTER CHATTER MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM THE
SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 2025

**SNEAK PEEK
AT PROGRESS
ON OUR NEW
REGIONAL
CAMPUS!**

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PICTURED HERE:
Puppies Patrick and Jackson
were among over 101 dogs
rescued from a suspected
puppy mill in Raleigh.

**RALEIGH
PUPPY MILL
RESCUE**

PAGES 4 & 5

**A LAUGH-OUT-LOUD
ADOPTION UPDATE**

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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.



ADOPT: spcawake.org/adopt
adopt@spcawake.org

DONATE: spcawake.org/donate
Mondy Lamb, Vice President of Development
support@spcawake.org

VOLUNTEER: spcawake.org/volunteer
Pam Schmalenberger, Dir of Volunteer Services
Volunteer@spcawake.org

PRESIDENT & CEO
Kim Janzen, kjanzen@spcawake.org

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Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and keeping cool in this humid North Carolina summer. Every single day, you are truly making a difference in the lives of pets and people in our community.

With the first six months of the calendar year behind us, I wanted to share some of the metrics of the lifesaving work you make possible. Thanks to your generous support, SPCA Wake has made a remarkable difference in the lives of 3,248 families in the first six months of 2025.

Our Community Impact team is dedicated to providing essential aid to pet owners in need. This year, we've experienced a 37% increase in requests for assistance, translating to an additional 304 families benefiting from our programs.

Our animal rescue numbers have seen growth as well. With your help, we've been able to rescue 1,952 pets over the past six months, including 423 animals that required immediate medical attention upon arrival. Thanks to your contributions and the hard work of our incredible volunteers, our foster care program has been instrumental in saving lives, with 1,010 pets placed into loving foster homes so far this year.

Additionally, our prevention programs are thriving. SPCA Wake has performed 1,323 lifesaving spay and neuter surgeries, including 129 fee-waived surgeries for unowned outdoor cats.

Behind every number, there is a person or a pet whose life has been made better because of you. Thank you for your belief and continued investment in the mission of SPCA Wake. The pets and people of our community are deeply grateful for you.

On behalf of the animals,

Kim Janzen



BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Countdown to Opening: 7 Months and \$4 Million to Go

North Carolina has a big problem with homeless pets: Every day, an overwhelming number of dogs and cats enter public shelters. A heartbreaking number never leave.

Euthanasia has long been the go-to method to manage the population of homeless pets. However, the resources exhausted in this reactive approach fail to make any impact in tackling the problem at its source.

To make a real difference in pets' lives, we must address the problems at their roots with proactive, people-focused solutions. **Tackling these root issues is precisely what this new building, and the programs and services that will fill it, is designed to do.**

The lack of accessible and affordable spay/neuter surgery options is a significant contributor to pet overpopulation in our state. For instance, the cost of spaying or neutering a dog can reach \$700 to \$1,000, which puts it financially out of reach for many pet owners.

SPCA Wake has long been a resource for affordable spay/neuter services, providing around 5,000 surgeries a year to the pets of families unable to afford the service elsewhere. Our new Pet Admission and Resource Center will give us the space and equipment

necessary to double the number of spay/neuter surgeries to 10,000 a year.

The spay/neuter clinic will be housed within our state-of-the-art Veterinary Medical Center—one of four main operational hubs in the new building, along with a Resource Center, Learning Center, and top-tier animal housing/medical isolation space.

Designed by an architect specializing in the design of veterinary clinics and animal shelters, the Medical Center includes two surgical suites and four surgery tables, providing maximum efficiency for pre-operative and post-operative workflow, as well as the surgery itself.

The clinic lobby is designed for the efficient check-in and discharge of 25–30 animals per day, five days a week. To make check-in as low-stress as possible, the lobby has separate seating areas for canines and felines.

Just off the lobby are three exam rooms where each animal receives a pre-surgery veterinary exam before being kenneled in their respective pre-/post-op surgery units.

We hope you're as excited as we are for the impact and opportunities of this lifesaving initiative. Check out the building floor plans and more at spcawake.org/bigplans.

Pictured:

Our new Pet Admission & Resource Center (left) is under construction, alongside the existing Pet Adoption Center (right).

The new 27,000-square-foot facility will be the cornerstone of the Susan and Randall Ward Regional Campus for Pets & People and set a new standard for animal welfare in NC.

The expanded campus at 200 Petfinder Lane in Raleigh will serve as a hub for the community to access help, as well as a central location to deploy resources locally and to counties across the state.

We are on track for a grand opening in March 2026.

A vision this big doesn't happen without a whole community of support.

INVESTORS ARE WANTED!

We have \$4 million left to raise for this project. Currently, naming opportunities are available for donations ranging from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000.

On September 1, we will post naming opportunities ranging from \$200–\$20,000.

Would you like to learn more? Please let me know!
Contact: Mondy Lamb
VP of Development
MLamb@spcawake.org
919-532-2086

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Jackson, Patrick, and Becka huddle together as they leave the puppy mill house for the very first time.

FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

Some rescues stay with you forever; this one, made possible by you, is one of them.

The sequence of events was strange and rapid. The Raleigh Police Department had originally been called out to the premises of an unassuming Wake County home to do a welfare check on chickens living in the backyard. What they didn't expect (and in no way could have truly prepared themselves for) was what they found within the home. **Inside, 101 dogs were living in heartbreaking, neglectful conditions.**

Within an hour of hearing from local authorities, SPCA Wake staff joined Raleigh Animal Control and several other rescue groups at the property, ready to offer helping hands. The air in the home was thick with the smell of waste, and a layer of muck hung on every dog's coat. Many dogs were cramped into small crates stacked floor to ceiling, sharing their tiny spaces with up to five or six other dogs. Mother dogs tended to their newborns, trying desperately to keep them clean and safe amidst all the chaos. **It was clear these animals had gone far too long without even the most basic care.**

Our team moved swiftly, preparing supplies and space to accommodate as many dogs as possible. By day's end, all the dogs (and chickens!) were moved to various rescue groups throughout the



The rescued dogs are still nervous upon arriving at SPCA Wake. With patience and love, our staff takes the time to let each dog know they are in safe hands.



Jamie the puppy's fur is matted and soiled from living amongst the waste of over a hundred dogs. He had likely never been groomed or bathed in his life.

state. We welcomed 19 of the dogs to SPCA Wake, each clinging to the promise of a better life. *And because of you, that promise is now a reality.*

Our veterinary team tended to years of neglect.

Matted fur came off in thick, tangled piles. Infections were treated, overgrown nails trimmed, and dental issues addressed. Many of the dogs received their very first warm baths and soft blankets of their lives. They enjoyed meals they didn't have to compete for.

Everything Began to Change

Over the following weeks, these dogs embarked on long journeys of healing, not only physically, but emotionally. **Dogs who had only known the inside of a cage felt the sunshine on their faces and the kindness of gentle hands.**

Timid eyes grew brighter, little tails started to wag, and tentative steps turned into playful romps in the grass. They began eagerly greeting visitors with shy, hopeful looks and gifting friends with loving kisses. And best of all, they started heading off to forever homes.

Jessie, a senior Pomeranian who appreciates gentle pets, joined a patient mom and daughter, as well as a loving doggy sister who accepted her immediately. Some joined families with other dogs to show them the ropes, or families with children eager to love them. These gentle, patient adopters promised to heal their hearts and rebuild their trust, one day at a time.

This life-changing rescue and the beautiful healing that followed were made possible because of you. Rescues like this don't come with any warning, and when emergencies happen, your compassion and support mean we don't have to hesitate. You paved the way for the lifesaving efforts that changed each of these dogs' worlds forever. Thank you for being a force for healing, hope, and new beginnings.



SPCA Wake's medical team offers love and reassurance as they carefully examine each dog.



Jessie (the Pomeranian) has a special life ahead of him with his new mom and dog brother.



One of our favorite moments: the dogs' first time running free in the outdoor play yard.



Jamie (pictured on opposite page) looks and feels brand new on his adoption day. He's sure to love being the family baby!

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

LUCAS & CARMELA: A LOVE LETTER

Every once in a while, we get an adoption update that is so good, so funny, and so heartfelt that it has us crying happy tears and laughing out loud. **We share this letter as a reminder that rescue not only saves lives, but changes them, for pets *and* people.** This joy extends long after adoption day!

Good evening!

I wanted to reach out and provide a quick update on Lucas and Carmela, who my wife and I adopted two years ago today.

Lucas and Mel (we don't often call her by her government name) are a bonded pair that were found together wandering in the woods in the middle of nowhere NC. They were transferred to SPCA Wake, where they stayed for about four months with numerous health issues, including a bullet in Lucas' head, before they were adopted and returned. Enter my wife and I. I work from home and have time to spare, plus excessive amounts of energy, and my wife has a penchant for dogs and less patience for aforementioned energy.

We did a test with them for a couple of days before we signed the adoption papers and realized they have numerous behavioral issues. Within the first week of having them, they destroyed our very nice Crate and Barrel couch. Did you know couches have really solid wooden frames under the fabric? I certainly didn't until it was exposed to the elements. Nevertheless, we decided to adopt and we did cry tears while signing the papers. I will not confirm or deny if they were overwhelmed or happy tears. Maybe both.

We've done extensive training with them the past two years—we walk at least 1.5 miles a day and train the entire time, plus we have a large fenced in backyard that they get plenty of energy out in. We go on hikes and sit outside on the porch watching dogs, bikes, delivery trucks (Lucas' mortal enemy), and people go by. We've recently graduated to going to a brewery, and I take Lucas on solo walks with our neighbor's dog to get him used to other dogs. We still have a long way to go, as they are still reactive to other dogs, box trucks, and motorcycles, but I wanted to provide an update and send some pictures to show you the life they're living. I think, and hope, they have the best life they could have, including their own room.

We did confirm via blood test that they are not dating (hopefully), but are either father-daughter or brother-sister, which does make the humping a little weirder. We're working on it. I hope you enjoy the pictures and update and rest assured Lucas and Mel are in great hands. Even though they do drive us absolutely up a wall sometimes, we adore them and love them more than anything.

All the best,
Lucy & Sonoma



Lucas and Carmela ("Mel") make every day sweeter (and more chaotic) for their moms.



Mel doesn't know why she's upside down—she's just happy to be involved.



Between the two dogs, Lucas is the chaos-bringer... but who can be mad at that face?



Thanks to your support, Lucas and Mel are loved endlessly by their family.



Jetta showed remarkable bravery during her surgery and rehabilitation.

A NEW ROAD FOR JETTA

When we hear “leg wound”, we often think of cuts or bruises or scrapes. But Jetta wasn’t so lucky. When Jetta arrived at SPCA Wake, her leg was shattered, and the bone poked through her skin in multiple places. Even more heartbreaking, **we learned she had been suffering like this for days.**

It was late in the day, but when our veterinary team saw her condition, they didn’t hesitate. **“This kitten can’t wait,”** they said. Within 20 minutes of arrival, our team already had Jetta in emergency surgery to remove her mangled leg. For the first time in who knows how long, Jetta was freed from the burden of pain.

Amazingly, just hours later, she was purring and reaching out her paw to hold hands with anyone who passed by. And she hasn’t stopped since.

Thanks to your compassion, Jetta is healing well. **Your kindness turned a tragedy into a second chance,** and now she’s safe, surrounded by love, and one step closer to finding a forever family of her own.



A whole-body cast helps Jetta recover from surgery.

RUSH HOUR RESCUE

Right: Kai has serious facial injuries after being thrown from a moving car.

A scene no one should ever witness: **A kitten hurled out of a moving car.** When Kai was callously discarded into oncoming traffic, a kind passerby didn’t hesitate to intervene. They rushed him to SPCA Wake.

Kai was significantly shaken and had severe facial injuries that left his eyes swollen and puffy. We

rushed him to our partners at Care First Animal Hospital for emergency x-rays and treatment. In the weeks of healing that followed, Kai proved to be a completely trusting and affectionate boy. Despite everything he endured, **Kai greeted every person with a head butt and a purr** that could be heard across the room.

Today, he’s fully healed and officially adopted

by his foster family, who couldn’t help but fall in love! He now spends his days surrounded by warmth, safety, and his new feline sisters.

Emergencies like these happen without warning, but **because of you, we had the resources ready to save his life.** Thanks to you, we never have to hesitate. And that makes all the difference in the world.

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Thanks to you, Kai is thriving in his new home!

YOUR STYLE TELLS A STORY

AND HELPS WRITE A NEW ONE FOR A SHELTER PET

Whether you wear it, carry it, or gift it, every purchase helps save a life.



Scan to view our online store, or visit spcawake.org/shop

Stickers, t-shirts, totes, and more!



JUST FOR YOU: TAKE 20% OFF WITH COUPON CODE: VIP20

NEVER TOO OLD FOR A SECOND CHANCE

Senior pets have spent their lives giving unconditional love—and when they end up in the shelter, it's our turn to return that love in full.

We recently received a generous grant from the Grey Muzzle Organization providing \$25,000 to help senior dogs find loving homes.

Older dogs are often overlooked by adopters due to the additional costs of their care. This grant helps remove those barriers by waiving adoption fees for dogs aged seven and up, and by covering medical care for age-related conditions that might otherwise slow them down.

Would you like help fund our medical care for senior shelter pets? Help give seniors a second chance! Call Kassie in the donor care office at 919-532-7065.



2025 Grant Recipient
SAVING SENIOR DOGS ♥ TOGETHER