SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY

201

ANNUAL REPORT

A NO-KILL ORGANIZATION WORKING TOWARD A NO-KILL COMMUNITY
SPCA MISSION STATEMENT:
Founded in 1967, the SPCA of Wake County is a non-profit animal welfare organization whose mission is to protect, shelter and promote adoption of homeless animals; to provide education about responsible pet ownership; and to reduce pet overpopulation through spay/neuter programs.

Pictured on front (left to right):
Pit Crew photo shoot with “Mama Cass.” See more on the Pit Crew on page 12. Foster kitten with her volunteer foster caregiver. See more on the Foster Program on page 11. Bottom: SPCA staff members load the transport van full of rescued animals from a research laboratory shut down for animal cruelty.
INTRODUCTION

What an exciting year of achievement 2010 turned out to be!

Despite a down economy and 2009 record-breaking numbers, we managed to beat those numbers and save even more lives in 2010. It’s been nonstop since July 1, 2010 when the SPCA of Wake County became a no-kill organization. Being no-kill has opened even more doors to help animals than I imagined it could. Since July, we have had many unexpected opportunities and unexpected challenges.

Some of our major successes include:

- Being able to provide emergency and crisis response to large groups of animals in need. On November 23, we saved 52 animals from being put down at a rural NC animal shelter. In mid-September, we rescued 39 animals from a lab shut down due to animal cruelty. These are just two examples of our new emergency response capabilities.

- Inspiring people who had given up hope that the killing of shelter animals could ever stop. We’ve successfully engaged hundreds of people to become temporary foster caregivers to the homeless animals they find, or who find them.

- Working to improve local shelters. Our close work with the government-run Wake County Animal Center is creating real change for all the animals in the greater Raleigh community. Our work with surrounding rural shelters on vaccine protocols is saving more of the most vulnerable shelter populations: puppies and kittens.

Most importantly, we’ve been able to save more lives and prevent more deaths, than ever before. Becoming no-kill in July changed two things: One, we gained the ability to help even more homeless animals and two, we lost a portion of tax money that the government paid us to perform impoundment functions at our facility.
Giving up this tax money, and the killing duties that were tied to it, is one of the most significant things we’ve done in our entire 43-year history. I am convinced that five years from now when we look back on this moment, we will see it as the turning point for animals in our community. This is when things started to get better for homeless pets instead of progressively getting worse.

Our donors are more important to the SPCA’s life-saving work than ever before. Although we are seeing a slow recovery in our economy, non-profits have been hit the hardest and longest in this recession. To make matters worse, the large “national” animal charities are soliciting more aggressively than ever. Many people mistakenly believe we are a chapter of the ASPCA or we receive funding from them, but we do not. Our funding comes from local individual donors, like you, who believe in our mission to create a better community. And to that end, I’ve saved perhaps the best fact from 2010 for last.

When we set out to fulfill our goal of becoming no-kill, we knew it would only be possible because of the foundation we built in 2009 when the SPCA’s initiative the Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Animal Clinic opened and we put the clinic on track to fix enough animals to make a difference. Now, after two full years of operation we are looking for results. When we ran the community-wide numbers of shelter euthanasia performed in 2010, we were breathless at what we saw: A dramatic decline in shelter deaths corresponding with the dramatic increase in sterilization surgeries.

We are proud to report that 2010 was the first year in Wake County history that more animals were fixed than killed.

See this dramatic – and inspiring – evidence for yourself on pages 16-17. Be inspired by this and by all the other heartwarming, life-saving numbers included in this report on our 2010 success. As an SPCA supporter, you own this success too!

On behalf of the animals,

Hope Hancock, Executive Director
There is no single solution to ending pet overpopulation and the euthanasia of thousands of animals each year in our community. Creating a no-kill community involves more than placing animals into homes. It involves programs that help animals stay in the homes they already have and it involves programs that prevent future animal suffering.

This annual report is organized into reporting on the SPCA programs within these broad strategies: 1- Increasing the number of animals leaving the shelter alive (adoption & rehoming); 2- Intervening on behalf of animals at risk of coming into animal shelters and helping them stay in their homes (retention & intervention); 3- Preventing unwanted animals from coming to the animal shelter (spay/neuter programs).
16,077 Animals Helped
through direct services from the SPCA of Wake County

7,451 Pets Spayed or Neutered
6,620 pets sterilized through the SPCA’s initiative:
the Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Animal Clinic in the Susan & Randall
Ward Center, and 831 pets sterilized through the SPCA’s spay/neuter
voucher program

3,596 Animals Rehomed
3,023 pets adopted, 407 returned to owner, 104 transferred, 62 TNR

3,128 Behavior Interventions
SPCA Behavior team helped pets stay in their home through
individual consultations and problem-solving solutions

1,902 Hungry Pets Fed
An average of 761 hungry pets fed each month through the
Pet Food Pantry and AniMeals Programs

5,010 People Educated
Education program participants (mostly youth) learned about
compassion and responsibility
ADOPTION
PROGRAMS TO REHOME PETS

FOSTER CAREGIVER VOLUNTEER JEN ROZYCKI AND RESCUED BROKEN PUP “CADBURY”
ADOPTION

Total: 3,596 Animals Rehomed

Pet Adoption is the heart and soul of what the SPCA has been doing since 1967.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adopted</td>
<td>3,023</td>
<td>2,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferred</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned to Owner</td>
<td>407*</td>
<td>741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trap-Neuter-Return</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*The decrease in Returned to Owner animals is due to the transfer of the majority of this program (and Raleigh impoundment tasks) to the Wake County Animal Center, the municipal shelter, on July 1, 2010.
ADOPTION
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Total Hours Given to the Animals: 46,904

Volunteers are vital to the success of the SPCA! Most of the volunteer work hours are spent in the rehoming programs that help SPCA pets find homes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active SPCA Volunteers</td>
<td>1,213</td>
<td>1,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total hours worked by volunteers</td>
<td>46,904</td>
<td>39,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equivalent to full-time employees (FTE)</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work value provided (@ $12/hour)</td>
<td>$562,848</td>
<td>$479,232</td>
</tr>
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Total: 1,208 Animals Fostered

The Foster Care Program is vital to saving the lives of puppies and kittens and animals who need time to heal medically or modify their behaviors to become better companions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pets Fostered</td>
<td>1,208</td>
<td>1,099</td>
</tr>
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</table>
ADOPTION
PIT CREW PROGRAM

156 pit bull mix dogs were adopted in 2010

Over 24% of dogs entering shelters in our community are pit bull-type dogs (disproportionately represented to other breeds) and approximately 46% of dogs euthanized in our community are also pit bull-type dogs (disproportionately represented to other breeds).

Compared to other incoming dog breeds, pit bulls are over-represented entering shelters, are under-represented in adoptions, and are at greater risk for euthanasia.

The Pit Crew is a group of trained volunteers working to repair and rebuild the reputation of the American Pit Bull Terrier in our community. The SPCA of Wake County takes in “at risk” Pit Bulls each year who may not otherwise have had much of a shot at happy, long lives. The Pit Crew works to improve each dog’s chances of being adopted.

The Pit Crew takes these homeless dogs to weekly specialized obedience classes, on field trips, and to play dates to help them learn excellent manners. Our pits learn social skills, patience and self-control as they study for their Canine Good Citizen title. They walk politely on their leashes through the lobby greeting visitors as they arrive, and showing off their newly-learned, crowd-pleasing tricks. The Pit Crew’s goal is to help pit bulls in need become the very best pets they can possibly be, and to find permanent, loving, safe homes for them where their training and socialization can continue.
FAMILIES IN NEED LINE UP AT THE SPCA’S MONTHLY PET FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM
RETENTION / INTERVENTION
BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

3,128 Behavior Interventions
SPCA Behavior team helped pets stay in their home through individual consultations and problem-solving solutions.
5,010 People Educated

Part intervention part prevention, the education program helps animals by teaching people responsibility and compassion. Since starting in May of 2006, the Humane Education Program has provided over 900 programs and educated over 21,000 people.

“I am sometimes asked ‘Why do you spend so much of your time and money talking about kindness to animals when there is so much cruelty to men?’ I answer: ‘I am working at the roots.’”
– George T. Angell, 1823-1909, MSPCA founder and humane education advocate
Wake County Government projected shelter pet population as of 2006 based on US Census data of an increasing human population as residents move into Wake County and increase the number of homeless pets.

Wake County Animal Center and the SPCA of Wake County total shelter animal populations as of December 2008. Totals of euthanizations performed by the Wake County Animal Center and the SPCA of Wake County through SPCA of Wake County Spay/Neuter Programs and spay/neuter voucher program Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Animal Clinic in the Susan & Randall Ward Center opens Jan. 2009.

Total population of shelter animals
Projected population of shelter animals
Euthanized
Fixed

Numbers of Animals

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

9,706
1,608
7,360

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

6,917
7,451
8,562

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

7,056
8,917

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

1,564
1,573
1,576
Below: Graph showing the impact of the high-volume spay/neuter program on the euthanasia of shelter animals in Wake County, NC.

We are proud to report that 2010 was the first year in Wake County history that more animals were fixed than killed.
Pet Food Pantry

For many families, a month's supply of pet food can mean the difference between keeping their pet or having to leave their pet at an animal shelter. And for many pets, staying in their home and out of an animal shelter can mean the difference between life and death.

Families served on a monthly basis 95
Average number of cats fed monthly 429
Average number of dogs fed monthly 291
Total families participating in Pet Food Pantry 729
Total pets fed by Pet Food Pantry since 2008 5,188
**AniMeals**

A service provided to home-bound senior and disabled adults living in Wake County who may be having to choose between feeding their pets and heating their homes, paying their bills or taking their medications. This needs-based program helps keep people and their pets together by removing logistical and financial obstacles to ensure that the owners will be able to provide nutritious meals for their beloved pets. For many home-bound adults, a dog or cat is more than a pet; it provides friendship, joy and a reason to live.

Home-bound seniors provided with pet food and supplies on a monthly basis  
Average number of pets cared for monthly
PREVENTION
AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE

SAVING LIVES SPAY/ NEUTER ANIMAL CLINIC
IN THE SUSAN & RANDALL WARD CENTER
PREVENTION
SPAY / NEUTER OUTREACH PROGRAMS

7,451 Pets Spayed or Neutered

Pets sterilized through the SPCA’s initiative:
the Saving Lives Spay/Neuter Animal Clinic   6,620   5,766
Pets sterilized through the
SPCA’s spay/neuter voucher program            831*   1,148

*decrease anticipated due to the increased use of Saving Lives Clinic
PREVENTION: $5 FIX PROGRAM
GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH · AGGRESSIVE, TARGETED PROGRAM

In spring 2010, the SPCA of Wake County took on the task of mapping animal intake data for animals brought to the shelter from the Raleigh city limits. We wanted to focus our efforts on the geographic areas that were producing the highest numbers of unwanted and homeless animals coming into the sheltering system. **Why is this study so groundbreaking?** Data like this had never been assembled before, due in part to the difficulty of mapping cross streets. (Often the address the stray animal is picked up at is not a street address but merely the nearest cross streets.)

With the help of the volunteer group Wake Voice for Animals, the technology of Mapquest, staff and volunteers painstakingly filled in thousands of missing street addresses. We then worked with the Wake County Geographic Information System (GIS) office, to refine and then map the data using special software that allowed the SPCA to analyze not only where animals were coming from but also to see concentrations of animal intake and its correlation with factors like socioeconomic data.

While a variety of factors make the data incomplete, it is evident from the resulting maps that there are clear problem areas in the community — primarily the zip codes 27601 and 27610. As part of the research, the SPCA also looked at the two groups of animals most likely to be euthanized once they enter an animal shelter – pit bull mix dogs and feral cats. These two zip codes also had higher numbers of pit bulls and feral cats taken to animal shelters than any other areas.

The SPCA of Wake County shared these findings with colleagues at the Wake County Animal Center and other community groups. By mapping this information, the opportunity is provided to focus community efforts and intervention on problem areas and hopefully make a measurable impact on the lives of animals – an impact that will improve lives and decrease euthanasia.
The mapping project was tackled as part of preparations for a grant application to PetSmart Charities and was an attempt to see if there are intake concentrations in Raleigh. PetSmart Charities awarded the SPCA of Wake County a grant to provide 500 spay/neuter surgeries and rabies shots to pets in the endemic areas of 27601 and 27610 at a cost to the public of just $5.00.

*This targeted program is allowing us to reach a segment of the pet-owning population who can only afford sterilization surgery through an aggressive subsidy that allows them a co-pay of $5.00.*

Maps are available online at [www.spcawake.org/fivedollarfix](http://www.spcawake.org/fivedollarfix)
SHELTERING NUMBERS REPORT
INCOMING & OUTGOING ANIMALS

Incoming Animals 2010

Owner surrendered animals 904
Stray animals 1,857
Returned animals 162
Confiscated animals (removed from owner’s possession by law enforcement) 119
Transferred from other animal shelters 1,340
Births at SPCA (from pregnant mothers) 129

Total 4,511

Incoming number does not equal outgoing number because of differing shelter populations at beginning and end of year.

Outgoing Animals 2010

Adopted 3,023
Transferred 104
Trap-Neuter-Return 62
Returned to Owners 407
Died 119
Euthanized 870

Total 4,585
EUTHANASIA REPORT
WHAT IT MEANS TO EUTHANIZE AT A NO-KILL SHELTER

What does it mean to say that the SPCA of Wake County is a No-Kill humane organization?

By “No-Kill,” we mean that once we admit an animal into our care, we treat that animal no differently than we would expect a loving pet owner to do. We do not take the life of any animal in our care for reasons of length of stay or our shelter capacity. If our veterinarian determines that a pet in our care requires veterinary care, including hospitalization, we provide that care so as to return that pet to a healthy or a manageable state.

We euthanize a pet only if our veterinarian determines that the pet is too sick or injured to recover to a life of quality and is suffering or if our animal behavior specialist determines that a pet is so behaviorally aggressive as to present a material danger to human safety.

• No-kill means that we will euthanize an animal who is suffering or who is near death to hasten its death in a way that relieves pain and suffering.
• No-kill means that we will only euthanize an animal after available treatment has failed.
• No-kill means we will reclaim the meaning of the word “euthanasia” and use it in a way that loving pet owners do.
• No-kill means we will never use killing as a means to control the pet population.

The SPCA takes in animals from all over, in many different states of health or injury. We cannot save all of the animals affected by disease and injury. What’s important is that we try to and that we mourn the ones we cannot save. What’s also important is that we stay concerned and focused on all the homeless animals in Wake County who are at risk of being euthanized, not just the ones in our care.
EUTHANASIA REPORT
JULY 1, 2010 - DECEMBER 31, 2010

CATS & KITTENS = 25 EUTHANIZED

10 were kittens who were euthanized due to failure to thrive and/or inability to overcome severe URI or GI issues. Many of them were currently undergoing treatment and/or hospitalization to try and save their lives.

8 were euthanized early in July as they were too fearful/feral to consider for adoption. All came in prior to July 1 under the animal sheltering contracts.

4 were long-time adult adoption center residents who were euthanized when they began to suffer due to chronic heart disease and related issues.

1 was returned post-adoption due to attacking adopter multiple times. He was euthanized when behavior staff assessed as unfixable.

1 was euthanized upon testing positive for Feline Leukemia.

1 was brought in after having been hit by a car and was euthanized due to multiple, severe injuries.

Euthanasia at a no-kill shelter:
We can’t always save them all, but we try. The leading cause of feline euthanasia at the SPCA is failure to respond to treatment for infectious disease. Many times euthanasia will take place to hasten the death of an already dying pet. Pictured above: A litter of four very sick kittens. With aggressive medical treatment, we saved three out of four. The little orange one on the far right was euthanized when treatment failed and death was imminent.

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EUTHANASIA REPORT
JULY 1, 2010 - DECEMBER 31, 2010

DOGS = 47 EUTHANIZED

15 were puppies suffering from severe parvo symptoms and tested positive for the parvo virus. At the time of euthanasia, many of them were currently undergoing treatment and/or hospitalization to try and save their lives.

6 were puppies who were euthanized due to failure to thrive and/or inability to overcome apparent severe worm infestation/GI issues.

9 were euthanized due to behavioral reasons that made them unsafe and that became apparent after their initial acceptance into SPCA adoption program.

10 were euthanized early in July as they were too dangerous to handle and behaviorally unsound for the adoption program. All came in prior to July 1.

1 very elderly dog was deemed medically unsound, blind, deaf and disoriented.

1 dog euthanized due to severe leg injury and infection.

2 were euthanized due to extreme fearfulness that prevented them from interacting with people.

1 dog was euthanized due to chronic kidney failure.

1 dog was euthanized due to heatstroke after traveling to the holding center on a very hot day for evaluation for acceptance into adoption program.

1 elderly dog was euthanized due to senior-onset dementia resulting in very unpredictable and dangerous behavior.

Rabbit = 1 EUTHANIZED

1 bunny euthanized due to severe, chronic and untreated dental issues.
**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**MONEY WELL SPENT, ON A CAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN**

The measure of a responsible and effective non-profit organization can be seen in what percentage the business spends on programs and fundraising. The SPCA spends 84.2 cents of every dollar on programs and services. The SPCA spends another 9 cents of every dollar on support and administration of these programs.

Only 6.6 cents of every dollar goes to fundraising. This spending ratio puts the SPCA in the top rating of responsible non-profit spending.

For the fourth year in a row, Charity Navigator awarded 4 out of a possible 4 stars to the SPCA of Wake County. This national award is given only to organizations who are the most responsible with donor contributions and direct the highest percentage of donations into programs and services. Only 9% of charities are able to achieve this top rating 4 years in a row. *(Charity Navigator is the nation's largest independent charity evaluator.)*

**2009* USE OF FUNDS**

- **84.2%** Program Expenses
- **6.6%** Fundraising Expenses
- **9.0%** Program Support and Administrative Expenses

*2009 numbers are available as the most current financial report for the SPCA. Each year, the SPCA hires an independent auditing firm to verify our financial reporting. Many non-profits do this to assure accountability to donors and many grantors require that a third party verify finances are being allocated the way the non-profit says they are being allocated.

In order to save money, the SPCA contracts an auditor after tax season (April 15) when rates are less expensive. The audit is completed and taxes are filed around September, so financial numbers are released after the audit is complete. We do not publish unaudited numbers but they are available in certain circumstances. Unaudited financials from 2010 do not reflect a deficit between revenues and expenses.

**2009 tax forms (990s) are available online at www.spcawake.org/2011member.**
Currently, the SPCA of Wake County is one of only two animal shelters in the state to receive a 4-star rating and the only animal charity in the Triangle-area to receive this top rating.
2010

SPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Thompson, President
Ted Dann, Vice President
Shannon Joseph, Secretary
Laurel Gron, Treasurer
Kathi Bentley
Kevin Concannon, DVM, DACVA
Matt Cunningham
Kelly Davis
Maria Elena De Leon Angel-Williams
Lekita Essa
Calley Gerber
Laura Kneavel
Gerald Owens
Kevin Pack
Kim Parker
Dave Reynolds
John Royal
Erick Strunck, DVM
Cindy Vogler
Danny Wilson
Founded in Raleigh in 1967, the SPCA of Wake County is a private, non-profit, no-kill animal welfare organization. The SPCA receives no funding from any national organization and relies on donations to support its life-saving programs.

To donate:
Please visit www.spcawake.org/donate

Give a gift by phone:
919-532-2083

Give a gift by mail:
SPCA of Wake County
200 Petfinder Lane
Raleigh, NC 27603
A NO-KILL ORGANIZATION WORKING TOWARDS A NO-KILL COMMUNITY

WWW.SPCAWAKE.ORG