



COMPASSION IN ACTION



NEWSLETTER OF THE SPCA SERVING ERIE COUNTY

2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

FROM PRESIDENT & CEO CAITLIN DALY



What a year it has been at the SPCA Serving Erie County! I am so proud to tell you about what we have accomplished with your support, and to share a little about

where we are going in 2024. In 2023, we shifted to a more open, inviting, and support-centered model. In doing so, we made it easier for our community to participate in our many programs and to access the help they need through our Lipsey Veterinary Clinic, pet pantry, behavior support team, and beyond. We spearheaded rescue and shelter support groups, meeting several times a year to ensure we are working together to help animals in Erie County. We are committed to continuing our work for those most in need, while providing holistic and supportive programs that are accessible to all. In this newsletter, I am so excited to share with you how we have expanded our services and improved the SPCA experience for animals and humans alike.

Gus, a 70-pound, exuberant, mixed breed dog was going crazy sitting in an SPCA kennel all day. Being a bigger guy with a lot of energy, he stayed longer than average waiting for his people. Thanks to Doggie Entourage, a Doggie Day Out program that allows members of the public to take SPCA dogs out into the community for a break from shelter life, Gus was able to experience adventure and fun with some lovely Erie County residents! This program has allowed us to engage with our partners in new ways: from bringing dogs to businesses for a day of employee enrichment, to sharing all the wonderful parks available to Doggie Entourage participants. This program helps dogs, but it is also a wonderful opportunity for anyone to get some exercise and do some good at the same time! And, in case you are wondering, Gus did eventually get adopted!

Through the Lipsey Veterinary Clinic, we have helped thousands of animals and their owners who

could not get care elsewhere. The Lipsey Clinic has offered high quality, affordable care for years, and recently we have expanded our offerings to include in-community care for those experiencing transportation barriers. The pet owners I meet at our community vaccine clinics love their pets deeply, and the opportunity to provide those beloved animals with quality veterinary care is so important to our mission of keeping pets healthy, safe, and with the people who love them.

While expanding our veterinary reach and services, we have also expanded our pet food pantry! Through partnerships with FeedMore WNY, The Humane Society of the United States, Chewy, and Greater Good Charities, we are positioning ourselves to be the largest pet food pantry resource in Western New York.

With additional support from the East Hill Foundation, our outreach team will be distributing this food to pet owners who find themselves in need of help.

The one thing that remains the same amid all our innovation and expanded programming is that we will always be a safe space for our community's most vulnerable animals. Every day we are a last resort for owners carrying their beloved senior pets through our doors, unable to afford costly euthanasia services elsewhere. We provide compassion and dignity in the owner's most vulnerable time of need, ensuring a painless and comforting passing for pets who have provided love and companionship for years. We cradle infant baby birds, squirrels, and opossums in our hands, providing the exact diet required, giving them a chance at life when nature left them abandoned or motherless. Our investigations team rescues companion, wildlife, and farm animals after they experience the trauma of being hit by a car, abandoned in a home, abused, or neglected. We will never cease our fight for those who need us most, and I know that our reach will grow stronger and wider with you by our side.

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FIND US

716-875-7360
YourSPCA.org
facebook.com/SPCAErieCounty
X: @YourSPCA
Instagram: @eriecountyspca

HOURS AND LOCATIONS

300 Harlem Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

Please visit YourSPCA.org
for current adoption hours.

The SPCA Serving Erie County
is proud to be a Purina Shelter
Champions Partner!



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Mission

At the SPCA Serving Erie County, our mission is to create a more humane community through: education; rescuing; protecting; and enhancing the lives of animals; and nurturing the bond between animals and people.

The SPCA Serving Erie County is not affiliated financially in any way with any other animal agency — including the Niagara County SPCA, the ASPCA, or any other humane society or animal welfare group. Our protocols, policies, and procedures are unique to this organization, a completely independent humane society that does not receive any city, county, state, or federal tax dollars. The important programs and services of the SPCA Serving Erie County are possible only due to the caring people and organizations that support us.



Gus on his Doggie Entourage

Continued from page 1.

I write to you with sincere gratitude, truly humbled by the work we have accomplished this past year and by the leaps and bounds that we expect to grow over this coming year. The animals and those who love them need us, now more than ever. We bravely and enthusiastically venture forward, and we do it for them.

Thank you for your continued support and kindness. I hope you will agree that the future is bright and exciting, and we look forward to taking this journey with you.

Caitlin Daly
President & CEO



FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

BY: P. JEFFREY BIRTCH



Dear SPCA Community:

I am thrilled to share the incredible achievements and initiatives undertaken by our dedicated teams at the SPCA Serving Erie County. The enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by our staff, volunteers, and community partners propelled our mission to new heights in 2023!

I express my deepest gratitude to each department, staff member, volunteer, donor, sponsor, and partner who has contributed to the SPCA's success. Let's carry this momentum into 2024. Together, we will continue to build a compassionate community where every animal receives the care, love, and respect they deserve.

With gratitude,

P. Jeffrey Birtch

EDUCATIONAL FARM

SHELTERS HELPING SHELTERS HELPING SHELTERS

BY SHEILA FOSS, EDUCATIONAL FARM DIRECTOR



Occasionally animal shelters put out the call to fellow animal shelters for assistance. This was the case in early July, when Ann Marie Gaudio from the Hudson Valley Humane Society (HVHS) was faced with a situation. They had two separate instances involving abandoned goats

being brought to their shelter, primarily a dog and cat shelter, followed quickly by flash floods in their area. An email was sent out to multiple shelters looking for placement for the eight goats they now had. This message was passed along to our educational farm staff to see if we were able to help them. While the HVHS was waiting for shelters to respond, the goats were examined by a veterinarian and received their initial vaccines.

Joanna Dychton, from Lollypop Farm near Rochester, also received this plea for help. Between both of our shelters, we determined we could take the whole herd

and find them new homes. Joanna was able to locate an individual who was approximately 2.5 hours away and willing to pick them up and bring them back to their own farm. Joanna could then transport the goats the rest of the way to Lollypop Farm. We, in turn, arranged to drive one of our large vans to Lollypop Farm so we could pick up the pair of goats we had room to take. Coincidentally, Joanna knew someone looking to adopt a peacock, and we had one ready to go up for adoption, so we packed up Percy the peacock and took him along for the ride!

Everything went smoothly that day, and we returned to our farm with a cute pair of female Nigerian Dwarf goats that we named Florence and Doris. As there had been an intact male in the group, our large animal veterinarian performed an ultrasound on both does (female goats) and found that Florence was pregnant and due in about a month! On the evening of October 23, Florence gave birth to an adorable, healthy 4-pound buck kid we named Hudson. In December this trio was adopted!

This tale exemplifies the need for partnerships amongst our vast animal sheltering network to provide connections in times of need. It is always a win-win when organizations can work together for the benefit of the animals in our collective care!

BEHAVIOR DEPARTMENT

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

BY MINDY USSREY, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

In April 2023, we launched a new program called Doggie Entourage Presented by Moog! The idea was to have our community help with getting our adoptable dogs out of the shelter for a few hours ... or the whole day! And it has been a paw-sitively HUGE success!

Every dog in the shelter needs to be walked several times a day and given enrichment several times a day to stay occupied and stimulated. Being out of the kennel and out of the shelter altogether is the BEST enrichment a dog could ask for. And our community has come through! We have had our dogs taken to parks, pet friendly patios, ice cream shops, backyards, and even on a boat ride! SPCA staff and volunteers also get in on the action! We take our adoptable dogs to events around town, too - at markets, cruise nights, fundraisers, and even company offices! We have also partnered with NY State Parks to participate in their Tails on Trails program at Niagara Falls State Park, with more to come.

We thank Moog for sponsoring this popular program. Their sponsorship will help keep this community program going for doggie-years to come!



Sky went out on a boat during her Doggie Entourage



BEHAVIOR
DEPARTMENT

Doggie Entourage
Outings:

453



Clementine was one of the first dogs we treated with a new parvo treatment protocol



VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Services provided to shelter pets

Spays:

1,391

Neuters:

1,481

1,033 Yelp for Help patients

VETERINARY SERVICES

REVOLUTIONIZING CANINE PARVOVIRUS TREATMENT: A BREAKTHROUGH WITH THE CANINE PARVOVIRUS

BY RICHELLE COONS, VETERINARY SERVICES MANAGER

In the past year, a groundbreaking treatment, the Canine Parvovirus Monoclonal Antibody Injection, was introduced to combat Canine Parvovirus. As an organization committed to enhancing animal care, we obtained and successfully administered this new treatment to Parvovirus-positive dogs in our community. The use of this innovative therapy has significantly reduced the workload on our veterinary staff, streamlining the care process and leading to faster recoveries for the treated dogs. Before this breakthrough, multiple medications and prolonged intravenous fluid administration were standard, but now, the dogs only need a maximum of three medications twice a day and shorter-term intravenous fluids.

The positive impact extends beyond efficiency, creating a less stressful experience for both the animals and the staff. The new treatment not only speeds up recovery but also minimizes the physical and mental strain on our veterinary team. With the remarkable outcomes observed with the Canine Parvovirus Monoclonal Antibody Injection, we are enthusiastic about incorporating this treatment into our future protocols at the SPCA Serving Erie County, anticipating further positive changes in our care practices and community service.

HUMANE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

HUMANE EDUCATION TEAM SPREADS KINDNESS AND EMPATHY ACROSS ERIE COUNTY

BY CHRISTINE DAVIS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Humane Education team actively worked with the community throughout 2023 with hundreds of programs for diverse audiences. We visited schools to instill empathy and responsible animal interaction among students through programs like Encouraging Kind Kids, Paw Protectors, and the Persuasive Writing and Art Contest. We also welcomed scouts for tours and badge workshops.

To expand our reach, we collaborated with community partners like Say Yes Buffalo to bring enriching experiences to families on Saturdays. We brought ambassador animals to create positive encounters, and provided backpacks filled with resources and hands-on activities.

To enhance youth involvement and remove barriers for black, indigenous, and other people of color, the humane education team expanded internal resources and offered weekly volunteer opportunities, internships, and career exploration programs. We also partnered with Buffalo PAL and Buffalo Public Schools to offer internships and exam preparation for the the NYS wildlife rehabilitator examination. Through the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, nine youth gained hands-on experience in various departments.

The humane education team also hosted ten sold-out weeks of our popular Kindness Camps and maintained our twice-weekly Tale for Two (reading to the animals) program. We aspire to continue reaching a broad spectrum of community members through various programs in 2024.



EDUCATION

Participants:

11,655

Programs:

642

Classrooms:

236 visited

Camps:

10 weeks

ADOPTIONS DEPARTMENT

2023 WAS PAWSITIVELY

UNFORGETTABLE!

**BY MINDY USSREY,
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

The SPCA had adoption promotions throughout 2023, and we took it to another level!

In April, we partnered with our longtime sponsor Northtown Subaru and the Buffalo Sabres to have an adoption event at the Key Bank Center. Buffalo Sabres alumni even came! We again partnered with Northtown Subaru on October 25 for our annual Subaru Loves Pets event where we had oodles of puppies and kittens available for adoption right in their showroom.

We were feeling a little frisky over the summer with our Get Your Flirt On promotion from Memorial Day to Labor Day, where animals a year and older had half off adoption fees. We also had four super special Speed Dating events where potential adopters could fall in love immediately with animals without guest passes or pre-approval! We created love connections for 135 animals!

Thanks to a generous donation from Nancy Haberman-Gacioch, we were able to hold a special limited edition Vets and Pets promotion, where adoption fees were waived for current and past

military members. It continues to be a proud service that we can provide to our local veterans and active military.

In an exciting collaboration, our dear friends Brandon and Hayley Beane graciously renewed their sponsorship of our beloved Bills Muttfia adoption special! Brandon, the Buffalo Bills' General Manager, and Hayley, a dedicated SPCA board member, covered the adoption fees for one animal at the SPCA Serving Erie County for every touchdown scored by the Bills during their home games. This heartwarming initiative is just another reason to cheer for our beloved Bills!

Stay tuned for more adoption specials for this upcoming year ... and our exciting summer 2024 theme! (Hint: grab your hairspray!)



*Vanessa of West Seneca
adopted Graham!*



ADOPTIONS

Total Adoptions: **3,679**

Dogs: **1,106**

Cats: **2,022**

Farm Animals: **152**

Other Animals: **399**

FOSTER CARE

BRIDGING HEARTS, BUILDING HOPE: THE POWER OF SPCA SERVING ERIE COUNTY'S FOSTER PROGRAM

BY SARAH MCEVOY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

In the heart of our community, SPCA Serving Erie County's foster volunteers stand as unsung heroes, embodying the essence of compassion. These remarkable individuals bridge the gap between shelter life and adoption, offering temporary homes to animals facing diverse challenges, from medical recovery to the need for respite from shelter life.

Foster success stories are a testament to the profound impact of dedicated volunteers. From scared kittens learning to trust to senior pets finding solace in a loving home, each tale highlights the transformative influence of foster families. Behind every successful placement is our foster team, who matches pets with the right homes and provides ongoing support, from medical care to behavioral training.

As we celebrate the achievements of our foster program, we invite you to join our movement. Visit YourSPCA.org/fostercare for information. Whether opening your home to a foster pet or supporting us through donations, together, we amplify the impact of fostering, ensuring every animal in need finds love, care, and the promise of a better tomorrow.



FOSTER CARE

Animals in
Foster 2023:

1,383

Foster Homes:
387 Fosters

NEW Fosters
117

Adopted from
Foster Care:

576

CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS AND ANIMAL RESCUE DEPARTMENT

PROTECTING ANIMALS: THE INVESTIGATIONS AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S IMPACT IN 2023

BY CHIEF LINDSEY WOOD, SUPERVISOR OF CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS AND ANIMAL RESCUE

In 2023, the SPCA Serving Erie County continued to uphold its commitment to the well-being of animals through the work of our Investigations and Rescue Department. The department plays a crucial role in ensuring the protection and welfare of animals in the Erie County community. Through collaborative efforts with law enforcement agencies, the SPCA works tirelessly to investigate cases of animal cruelty, neglect, and abuse.

Here are some of the department's accomplishments in 2023:

- In August, the SPCA rescued 22 dogs from a home unfit for humans and animals. The dogs were found in a small bedroom, some standing on furniture. They were rescued and taken for emergency care. Charges of animal cruelty, totaling 44 counts each, were filed against three individuals.
- Two Amherst men were charged with animal cruelty for beating a small dog. The charges

stem from a video that was posted on Snapchat in June, which showed the men yelling at the dog and beating him with a belt.

- A Cheektowaga man was indicted on felony animal cruelty charges for the deaths of two of his cats. The man is accused of killing the cats by hitting them in the head with a closed fist. He pleaded guilty to one count of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals and in a plea deal reached in March, the man was sentenced to five years of probation and a five-year ban on owning or caring for animals.



INVESTIGATIONS/
RESCUE

Cruelty
Investigations: **1,454**
Abandoned Animals
Admitted: **277**
Seized Animals
Admitted: **697**

LIPSEY VETERINARY CLINIC

THE LIPSEY VETERINARY CLINIC'S COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A HUMANE COMMUNITY

BY MICHELLE SOBASZEK, LVT, LIPSEY VETERINARY CLINIC PRACTICE MANAGER

The Lipsey Veterinary Clinic is dedicated to improving and saving lives through compassionate care, community engagement, and animal advocacy. Collaborating with our community, staff, volunteers, donors, and business partners, we aim to create a compassionate community that enhances the quality of life for both people and their pets. Our ongoing efforts focus on improving the health, safety, and affordability of pet ownership, preventing pets from entering shelters, and maximizing assistance to animals in need. In 2023, we served as a vital resource, providing a safety net for pets and owners, and in 2024, we remain committed to our mission. Your trust and partnership are crucial for our continued success.



LIPSEY
VETERINARY
CLINIC

*Services provided to
owned pets*

Spay/Neuter
Surgeries: **881** Other
Surgeries: **142**

Dentals:
143



OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

PAWS ON THE GROUND

BY AMY JAWORSKI, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH AND SAFETY NET SUPPORT SERVICES

Providing proactive pet health services was something we jumped in feet first in 2023! Pets can only be as healthy as the environment in which they live, so taking a proactive approach to vaccinating pets against some of the most common preventable diseases seemed like a logical step to keeping pets healthy and with their families.

Diseases like Parvo, Leptospirosis and Panleukopenia can be fatal to dogs and cats (respectively) if not treated. These diseases are extremely contagious and can live in the environment for extended periods of time. Treatment options can be very expensive and offer no guarantee of a successful outcome.

Our ACCESS (Animal & Community-Centered Engagement and Support Services) team takes to the streets to bring affordable vaccination services and pet supplies to communities who have limited resource options available for animal care.

In addition to vaccination services, these clinics provide us with an opportunity to connect attendees with local human service organizations such as Evergreen Health, National Fuel, 211 WNY, SNAP and UB Heals, and more. Representatives from these organizations are happy to share their program information with folks who may benefit from the services that are available.

Clinic events are also an excellent opportunity to offer the services of our Pet Food Pantry. Several hundred thousand pet meals and pet supplies are distributed to the community through our Pet Food Pantry each year! Our Community Resource tent is a favorite stop for the pets who visit our clinic, as they often leave with some tasty treats, fun toys, and an occasional jacket or two.



OUTREACH

The Pet Pantry:

173,014 Pet Meals Distributed

4,136 Pounds of Litter
7,451 "Other" Items

Vaccination Clinics:

1,376 Pets Vaccinated
728 Microchipped

VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT

SPCA VOLUNTEERS CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY

BY KELLY DESCHAMPS, DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

At the SPCA Serving Erie County, one of our most valuable resources is our volunteers!

In 2023, our team of nearly 1,300 volunteers worked hard every day to provide compassionate care for animals at the SPCA and off-site locations, as well as assisting at events, engaging youth in education programs, and more.

These dedicated volunteers also assisted in reaching out beyond the walls of our shelter to connect with our community at low-cost vaccine clinics. Here they were able to assist our staff with essential care for pets.

Our volunteers are committed to not only caring for shelter animals, but to connecting with people and pets to enrich our community as a whole.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers:

1,281

Total Logged Hours in 2023:

43,373

WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

A YEAR OF IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS IN WESTERN NY WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

**BY BARBARA HANEY,
DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE SERVICES**

Through close collaboration with fellow wildlife advocates, the Wildlife Department expanded its safety net for WNY animals. Our goal has been to provide a wide-reaching safety net for wildlife in the WNY area through collaborations. In 2023, we actively leveraged our network to achieve greater impact.

The list of collaborators is endless. It's important to remember that each of the wild animals brought to us is connected to a kind-hearted member of the community who took time to find the necessary help that the wild animal needed. This matters! As our ability to provide more and more complicated and specialized care for different injuries for wildlife improves, and as more and more folks in the community grow in empathy toward our wildlife, we need to engage and collaborate with all qualified wildlife rehabilitators. We need to be honest about what we each do well and where we can rely on others to provide things that we can't.

We've worked with Messinger Woods Wildlife Center and transferred many large raptors like Eagles and Peregrines. Why? Because they have the largest aviary in the area. Sometimes they transfer animals to us, too. They may even transfer large raptors to us because we have veterinarians available, and can provide certain diagnostics that their volunteer organization cannot without

consulting the very few vets in the area who will work on wildlife.

We launched the annual Western NY Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference with great success. Fifty attendees collaborated and learned best practices in wildlife medicine. We'll offer it every year due to its positive reception!

We had 125 animals that went into 14 volunteer foster care situations for careful husbandry; usually, this is for orphaned mammals who need round-the-clock care.

Speaking of volunteers! Our most valuable community-centered resource is our volunteers! We are so grateful for the 109 wildlife volunteers and the 18 wildlife interns who provided 13,750 volunteer hours in our department. We're dedicated to expanding partnerships to save more wildlife and appreciate the collaborative progress so far!



WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Animal intake:
3,482

Transfers to other wildlife rehabilitation organizations:
287 animals to
26 area rehabbers



Save the dates!

2024 Special Events

Pawsitive Payday Raffle
January 22 through February 28

Wildlife Baby Shower
March 11 through 22

Kitten Baby Shower
May 6 through 31

Wine, Wags & BREWS!

June 12: 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

PAWS in the PARK

September 21: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at Beaver Island State Park





SPCA PACK LEADERS

For a list of Pack Leader donors, please visit YourSPCA.org/2023packleaders.