



COMPASSION IN ACTION



NEWSLETTER OF THE SPCA SERVING ERIE COUNTY

FALL 2021

YELP FOR HELP PATIENTS ARE GRATEFUL FOR EVERYONE'S SUPPORT!

Every day, the SPCA team makes treatment decisions surrounding animals with urgent medical needs. Having financial resources available through our donor-supported Yelp for Help Fund allows us to provide advanced medical attention for these animals.

In the spring, the SPCA teamed up with The Petco Foundation (now Petco Love) and Harlee Bendzula from Auctions for Animals to hold our Yelp for Help Matching Gift Challenge. We received \$45,000 of matching funds — \$20,000 from The Petco Foundation and \$25,000 from Harlee's Auctions for Animals! When we asked our wonderful community to match these donations, we were met with enthusiastic generosity!

With support for this critically needed fund, we can give hundreds of animals the second chances they need to live the lives they deserve! We'd like to introduce you to some of the Yelp for Help patients who benefited from everyone's love and support.

blood vessels in it. Intravenous pain medications were administered while Daisy was prepped to be examined for internal damage. X-rays showed mild lung bruising and a severe left femur fracture. Dr. Kean made the decision that based on the extensive damage to the femur, her left leg would need to be amputated.

After a successful surgery, our intrepid canine began rehabilitation with our Behavior & Research Team to figure out how to walk with one less leg. Daisy's other wounds began to heal and, in no time, she was ready to share all her love and playfulness with a new owner!

Daisy was happily adopted Memorial Day weekend by Colleen! Colleen said, "Daisy has such a good personality, and she's pretty chill for a puppy! She's always following me around, and she loves playing Frisbee. She's good with my four cats, and she loves kids, especially my great-nieces and nephews who range in age from seven to eighteen!"



Our patient: Daisy, an 8-month-old Pit Bull Terrier puppy

What occurred: Early in May, Daisy came to the SPCA after being hit by a car. She was rolled underneath the vehicle and knocked unconscious for 5 to 10 minutes after being struck. Daisy's owner rushed her to an emergency clinic where they began to care for her. Unable to afford the steep

medical costs quoted to repair her injuries, the option to surrender Daisy to the SPCA was made.

How Yelp for Help donors helped Daisy: Once at the SPCA, our Veterinary Team quickly began care for the sweet pup. She had abrasions on her head and body and her left eye was swollen and had many broken

Our patient: Da Vinci, a 2-year-old handsome black cat

What occurred: Like Daisy, we suspect that Da Vinci was hit by a car before he came to the SPCA. Both of his back legs showed signs of trauma and skin wounds, and he was coughing. He was treated with pain medications, antibiotics, and intravenous fluids.

How Yelp for Help donors helped Da Vinci:

An X-ray showed that he had a fractured femur in his right back leg and the only humane treatment was to amputate it.



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FIND US

716-875-7360
YourSPCA.org
facebook.com/SPCAErieCounty
Twitter: @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
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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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



Reflecting on the pandemic and how it impacted our work is sometimes painful, but there are so many successes that you will read about in this newsletter.

In animal welfare, there were some unique challenges, which led to unfounded fears that made our work even more challenging than normal. The first was the concern, by some, that COVID was going to impact our pets and shelters would see tremendous numbers surrendered to them, overwhelming the system. While we did read about an occasional animal at a zoo testing positive and a few other anecdotal stories, this concern never materialized on the scale some first thought.

Secondarily, is the thought that people adopted because they were home for a long time, and when the world “opened back up,” shelters would again be overwhelmed with returns by people with less spare time on their hands. This has also not been the case nationally or in our community. I always thought that an opportunity to spend more time at home bonding with a new pet is a good thing, as it takes time to get a new pet into your home routine. Time we do not often seem to have enough of with our normal work/life balance in today’s busy world.

As always, you played an important role in our ability to not only survive in these tough times, but to continue our mission despite COVID restrictions. Your support allowed us to continue to bring in animals needing to find new homes, even those with additional medical or behavior concerns. You helped us to continue to care for injured and abandoned wildlife, to educate children in different ways, to care for farm animals in need, and to provide access to affordable veterinary care for pet owners, many of whom were negatively impacted by the pandemic.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories in this newsletter that help to highlight a few great examples of how your investment in our work means so much to so many people. Our staff and our volunteers showed so much dedication and effort through these tough times as we all adapted to different ways to help animals and the people who care for them. That work is only made possible through the support of each of you reading our newsletter. Thank you for your continued trust in us, in our work, and in our ability to always answer the call, no matter the circumstances. We will never take that support for granted.

Gary Willoughby II
President & CEO

YELP FOR HELP PATIENTS CONTINUED

Untreated, he would have suffered arthritis and chronic pain. Even though this isn't an easy surgery, we needed to give this sweet cat the best quality of life possible.

Da Vinci paid us back by being a star patient, and he recovered quickly! Less than a month after he was admitted, he found his new home with Jennifer in Williamsville!



Our patient: Logan, a 4-month-old orange tabby kitten

What occurred:

We're not sure what circumstances led to Logan's condition; like many of our felines, his past remains a mystery. When he was admitted, he couldn't walk well on his left back leg. X-rays revealed that his left hind leg was fractured.

How Yelp for Help donors helped Logan: Dr. Kean was hoping that his back leg would improve using a splint. He spent time in the SPCA's foster care program with Valerie, an SPCA veterinary technician. Valerie had to keep a close eye on him, especially because he was prescribed strict cage rest - a daunting task for ANY kitten! Valerie also had to change his bandage and splint often.

After two weeks, Dr. Kean took another X-ray and re-assessed his progress. His leg showed remarkable improvement, and it wouldn't need to be amputated. Just to be sure, Logan spent a few more weeks with Valerie so we were positive that his leg was fully healed. The day he was made available for adoption, Lora from Amherst welcomed him into her home!

Our patient: Piper, a young cat

What occurred: Piper was hit by a car and was badly injured as a result. She was in pain and shock when she was admitted to the SPCA.

How Yelp for Help donors helped Piper: It only took one look at Piper to know that her story would be a hard one to tell.

Dr. Kean could see that Piper had severe facial and head trauma. She had facial fractures, fractures in her upper and lower jaw, fractured teeth, the skin and fur on her lower jaw was missing, the left side of her face was bleeding, and her left eye was swollen. Thanks to the fast action of our veterinary team, her initial diagnosis was swift, and Piper began receiving treatment immediately, most notably pain medications. Her prognosis was grave.

The next day she was anesthetized so Dr. Kean could fully assess her injuries. Using X-Rays, Dr. Kean saw that her upper jaw had fractured teeth and multiple small bone fractures. Her lower jaw was fractured in two places. In addition to the injuries above, Dr. Kean learned that Piper also had a fracture in the roof of her mouth. She cleaned and flushed her mouth and wired her mandible in place. Dr. Kean was concerned about Piper, so the veterinary team monitored her appetite and comfort level often.

Piper had a rough road ahead of her. She needed a feeding tube placed to facilitate feeding and administering medications to prevent pain while her mouth healed. A schedule was made to be sure she was fed every couple of hours. Slowly, she began to eat on her own, and the veterinary team was cautiously optimistic that this little girl would pull through.



A month after she was admitted, she was placed in a foster home with an experienced foster parent. The foster mom noted that as time went on, she began eating more on her own, and she was turning into an active, playful, and social kitten. She still has medical hurdles to get through, and her patient foster mom is helping Piper every step of the way. Her foster mom says, "Piper is the best cat. She's great with my dog and other cats. She is obsessed with water. She sleeps every day in the bathtub, and as soon as she hears the shower, she jumps in there. My kids and I have to close her out of the bathroom because she tries getting in the shower! She's always wet because she's constantly in the bathtub. She also loves sitting in the window and playing with toys and laying in your lap while you're watching TV."

At the time of this writing, Piper has been receiving care with the SPCA for six months. She is still with her foster mom, and her recovery is coming along well. We don't know when Piper will be well enough to be made available for adoption, but we know that instead of excruciating pain, she now knows hope, love, and relief thanks to Yelp for Help donors.

VET VISITS: WHY A HEALTHY PET SHOULD SEE THE VETERINARIAN, TOO!

BY MELANIE RUSHFORTH, VICE PRESIDENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES

Veterinary care, like human medical care, is more likely to produce positive outcomes if it is part of a regularly established routine. This is particularly important when pet owners are establishing care for the first time at a new provider, or with a new pet. The last thing any pet owner wants to imagine is trying to establish care for the first time when a pet is sick or injured. Regular routine veterinary visits help your pet live a long, healthy, and happy life. Annual or biannual exams can identify and nip emerging health problems in the bud and are key to extending your pet's time by your side. Early detection and intervention will allow your veterinary team to treat a disease in the beginning stages and then manage the condition with medication or simple lifestyle adjustments. Your veterinarian also can give you pointers that will help your pet live her healthiest life and stave off potential medical conditions.

What is your veterinarian looking for during an exam?

The physical exam your veterinarian performs may seem like nothing more than a thorough petting, but it reveals a wealth of information. Here's what your veterinarian is checking when they examine your furry friend:

- **Ears** — Ear infections are common in both cats and dogs. Cats often present with ear mites, while dogs routinely display yeast or bacterial infections, but all can cause infection in either species.
- **Eyes** — Eye issues abound in flat-faced breeds, such as bulldogs, pugs, Persians, and several other breeds. The eyes can tell us a lot, and they're nice to look into as well!
- **Mouth** — Dental health affects your pet's entire body, and the veterinarian will look for signs of gingivitis, loose teeth, tartar accumulation, and oral masses. A dirty mouth can harm their heart, kidneys, and other organs because of traveling oral bacteria.
- **Skin** — Dry, itchy skin and hair loss can indicate a variety of health issues, including mange, allergies, skin infections, endocrine imbalances, fleas, and poor nutrition. Your pet's overall health can be gauged from the quality of her skin and hair coat.
- **Heart and lungs** — Older pets are prone to heart disease, but younger cats and dogs also can show problems with heart rhythm and function. Cardiac disease is best managed when signs first appear, and these signs are often only picked up by auscultation with a stethoscope, leading to further diagnostic testing.



- **Abdomen** — While an abdominal palpation may seem to be a belly massage for your pet, your veterinarian is checking for abnormal masses and organ size. Enlarged kidneys can indicate renal failure, a thickened bladder may be hiding a chronic urinary tract infection, or an enlarged spleen may be feeding a tumor. These are definitely things we want identified early.

Your veterinarian will examine your pet from nose to tail, and based on their findings, may recommend additional diagnostic testing as well as dietary adjustments. Since pets — especially cats — are excellent at hiding signs of illness, a thorough physical exam with routine screening tests is crucial to detect early-stage illnesses. Early detection and treatment can extend your pet's life, giving you many more years of quality time together, so if you haven't already established primary care for your pet, please do so and then schedule a wellness visit to ensure your furry friend is in top physical condition. Healthy pets are happy pets!

If you don't have care established already for the pets in your home, please feel free to contact the Lipsey Veterinary Clinic at the SPCA Serving Erie County. The Lipsey Veterinary Clinic operates as a full-service wellness-centered veterinary clinic, and we would look forward to meeting your pet soon. To set up an appointment, please contact the clinic directly at 716-531-4700 or send an email to lipseyclinic@yoursPCA.org. You can also visit the clinic's website at lipseyclinic.com.

THANK YOU GARY WILLOUGHBY

At the end of September, the SPCA Serving Erie County will say goodbye to Gary Willoughby who has served as our organization's President & CEO for the past five years. Gary has the opportunity to move close to aging relatives, and I think most of us know how difficult it is to be far away from family when they need you.

We're sad to see him go, but grateful for all that he's accomplished for the organization during his time with us, including moving us into our beautiful new home on Harlem Road, maintaining the financial health of the agency, getting the Lipsey Veterinary Clinic up and running, and fostering

relationships with key partners, including Lincoln Memorial Veterinary University.

On a personal note, I'm incredibly thankful for the advice, guidance, partnership and friendship Gary has provided to me during my tenure as Chair of the SPCA Board of Directors. I wouldn't have been able to do it without him.

I hope you'll join me in thanking Gary and wishing him well in the next steps of his life!

Julie O. Schechter

Julie Desmond Schechter
Chair, Board of Directors



Gary and Julie

ADOPTION PHOTOS



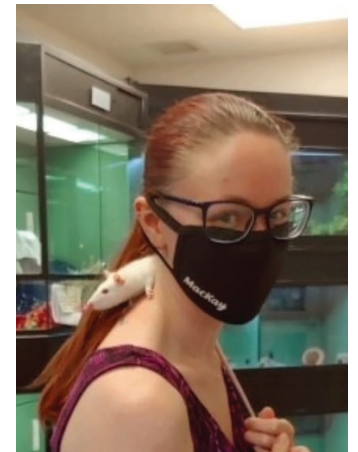
Personality-filled Goliath, the rabbit, was adopted by SPCA Humane Education Director Christine!



When new mom Illyana from Buffalo saw Tavi, she said it was love at first sight!



Trevor from Rochester adopted Hercules, a very strong puppy indeed!



Don't look on the ground for this adopted animal! Check Lindsay's shoulder, and there you'll find her loving new little one, Hera, the domestic rat!



Tamesha and Tani from Buffalo adopted Cleopatra!



Laura and Shawn from Williamsville adopted Poppy!

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PAWS in the PARK 2021



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Last chance to join us for the 28th annual VIRTUAL Paws in the Park, presented by Keller Technology Corporation. Between now and September 25, take your favorite furry friend for your 2-mile walk and don't forget September 27 is the last day to turn in your donations! All funds raised will help our community's animals!

Presented by:



For more information or to register please visit YourSPCA.org!



HOPE SOARS FOR JUVENILE BALD EAGLE RESCUED BY THE SPCA SERVING ERIE COUNTY

BY: GINA LATTUCA, SPCA CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

“Loud Crash” Heard by Alert Buffalo Police Officers Led to Rescue

We never know what a busy spring baby season will bring to the SPCA’s Wildlife Department. Past guests have included baby bunnies, baby squirrels, baby ducks ... and, on this year’s guest list, a “baby” bald eagle.



On May 25, 2021, we found a juvenile bald eagle in critical condition at the Wildlife Department of the SPCA Serving Erie County after flying into a high building window in the City of Buffalo the day before.

The SPCA received the call for rescue the afternoon of May 25 from Tracy Masiello,

crime analyst for Erie County, after Buffalo Police Detective Mark Costantino and Officer David O’Brien heard a loud crash outside of their offices at Court and Franklin Streets in Buffalo. They ran outside and found an extremely large bird struggling on the sidewalk. The crash they heard was the bird flying into a window of a building across the street, approximately 30 feet high.

“He tried to raise himself four or five times, but he was struggling, and we could see he couldn’t lift up,” Detective Costantino said. Despite the fact that the bird didn’t have a full, white-feathered head, Detective Costantino said he knew right away that the bird was a bald eagle. “He was enormous, and his talons were so large, I could tell we were looking at an eagle.”

After receiving the call from Masiello, SPCA Serving Erie County Animal Rescue Team Officers Jennifer Maleskis and Tyler Robertson arrived at the location, retrieved the young bird, and rushed him to the SPCA’s Wildlife Department hospital, where they were met by Wildlife Director Barbara Haney and, within the hour, SPCA Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Karen Slote.

“By the time the bird made it to us, he was obviously quite stressed,” says Haney. “In addition to not being able to stand, he had an injury on his beak and blood in his mouth. He was open-mouthed breathing, a clear sign of his high stress level.”

Dr. Slote was able to provide an initial examination and determined the juvenile bird, a first-year bald



eagle probably out of his nest only a few weeks, had a fractured femur. Further assessment and radiographs on May 25 confirmed a severe fracture.

On May 25, when asked if the bird would survive, Haney stated, “We are doing everything we can for this magnificent bird, considering its compromised state at the moment. We’re careful not to provide any solid prognosis at this time because the bird is still in critical condition and the outcome is uncertain.”

At the same time, Dr. Slote was in the midst of contacting wildlife professionals at the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Hospital (an annex of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals), and sent them her assessment of the eagle, along with the radiograph images.

The eagle was responding to preliminary supportive care, fluids, and medications it was receiving, which was helping to build its strength, and Haney expressed hope that Cornell would accept the bird for surgery. “The surgical team at Cornell is much better-suited for this sort of surgery ... they perform it much more frequently ... and they have the equipment and the pins and the other necessities large enough and strong enough for this extremely large animal. Our primary hope right now is that the bird does, in fact, survive. That’s what we’re focused on right now. We’re doing everything in our power to help his survival so that we can actually have that discussion with Cornell about surgery and rehabilitation.”

Fortunately, SPCA staff did not have to wait to have that discussion. Representatives of Cornell contacted the SPCA early the morning of May 26 to say that they would, in fact, accept the eagle for surgery if it could be transported immediately. That day, the juvenile bald eagle was transported to the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Hospital in Ithaca, NY, where surgery was eventually performed. At the time of this writing, SPCA staff has been told that the eagle was doing “great” post-surgery, and a rehabilitation plan was being devised!

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EAGLE RESCUED

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This eagle was not the first cared for by the SPCA Serving Erie County Wildlife Department. “Eagles have made quite a comeback in the last 30 years or so,” Haney said, “and we’re starting to see them in all parts of Western New York, the City of Buffalo included. It’s possible this bird became disoriented for what could be one of several reasons, possibly even due to his reflection in the window of the high building, or he may have been in a territorial scuffle with a peregrine falcon, as hypothesized by our contacts at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.”

The SPCA wants to thank Buffalo Police Detective Costantino, Buffalo Police Officer O’Brien, and Erie County Crime Analyst Masiello for their cooperation and for contacting our officers when they found the eagle and saw that it was in distress. Heartfelt gratitude also goes out to the team at Cornell University’s Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Hospital for accepting this eagle and helping to give it a second chance at soaring our New York skies.

Finally, this juvenile eagle’s story touched the hearts of people throughout the country as evidenced by astronomical social media views, comments and reactions; the SPCA is, as always, incredibly thankful and honored to be part of such a caring and compassionate network of animal lovers, whose constant support of all types is what makes this work possible.

See additional photos and video of this beautiful eagle (gratitude to Detective Costantino for providing us with the video and some of the photos), along with any updates that may have been provided, at YourSPCA.org/EagleRescue2021.

JOHN LATTIMER’S FORTIETH EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY WITH THE SPCA

BY BARBARA HANEY, WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

June marked the 40th anniversary of John Lattimer’s employment at the SPCA! What a huge accomplishment!! In the world of animal welfare, John has lived and worked through tremendous changes. Indeed, when he started 40 years ago, it was not routine to have veterinary services at humane societies, nor were there routine spay and neuter surgeries at animal shelters. John’s contributions to the SPCA cannot be overstated. We are tremendously blessed by having him as part of our SPCA family, and his skills as a veterinary technician have influenced our industry and, most certainly, this community.



John’s compassion for animals led to his founding of the Wildlife Department, and for that, I can say that I’m truly grateful for his compassion and innovation. In the late 1980s, wildlife rehabilitation was not a part of most humane societies, and even today, it is the exception if a shelter cares for wildlife. The SPCA Serving Erie County is only one of a handful of humane societies that has a Wildlife Department. We are quite lucky in Western New York to be able to provide care for more than our domestic friends. John’s foresight and caring have led to one of the largest wildlife rehabilitation centers in New York state, and we lead the industry in our innovation and skills at providing care for wildlife.

For many years after starting the Wildlife Department, John was a veterinary technician in the infirmary, working mainly with domestic animals. John has been called on to do some of the saddest things in animal welfare and has had his heart broken due to numerous animals’ sad stories, but what makes him different is that instead of retreating, he just keeps trying to do more for animals. In fact, no matter when you call him, he’ll answer the call and help. He rarely says no. John now works part-time in the Wildlife Department, and he is flexible and helps whenever he can, changing his schedule to cover shifts whenever needed. He does what’s needed to care for wildlife in our community. He’ll drive to pick up injured wildlife, work late to attend to animals, and listen to the community who call with concerns and questions.

John has fostered hundreds of animals over the years, caring for animals on his time off. But, during all his compassionate work caring for animals, John has maintained a healthy personal life in which he enjoys camping, playing golf, and even starting the SPCA’s softball team years ago! He is a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Anyone who knows John knows he’s a kind and solid individual. I am honored to work with John and value my time with him. I think of John as the heart and soul of the SPCA, and we wouldn’t be where we are right now without him. Thank you, John, for all that you’ve done and all that you continue to do for the animals and the people of this community. We are eternally grateful for your contributions.