



COMPASSION IN ACTION



NEWSLETTER OF THE SPCA SERVING ERIE COUNTY

FALL 2022

SPCA BEHIND-THE-SCENES: MORNING OCCUPANCY

BY LEIGH ANN ABBEY, ANIMAL CARE MANAGER

Hello! I'm Leigh Ann, Animal Care Manager here at the SPCA Serving Erie County! I am so happy to do this behind-the-scenes tour with you as I do the daily occupancy for the shelter. **I'm responsible for doing morning occupancy, which ensures that what animals we have in the building matches with what we have in our digital database. It's also important because it lets everyone know where every animal is in the building at the beginning of the day.**

I start each day checking every area for animals, ensuring that everyone is safe, and seeing if our Officers brought any animals in late the night before who weren't put into our computer system. There are multiple sheets, each with multiple housing areas. The sheets are a mirror image of that area so it's easy to follow with location and cage or kennel number.

As I go through each area, I highlight each cage and kennel that is occupied or write a name in each kennel space. We will use this as a guide for when new animals come into the building, so we know what housing space is available. It also helps us find an animal if they haven't been logged into our database and they need to be put in. The original sheet is updated throughout the day, so that if an animal gets moved or adopted, another animal can be placed in that cage or kennel.

When an animal first arrives, they are placed in a holding space before they are ready to be placed for adoption. While they are in holding, they will receive any medical care they need, (medications or a spay/neuter surgery), or maybe they

need to spend time there before they are placed with a foster home.

In the pictures, I'm checking on a nervous injured cat in our infirmary.

Another thing I do is the poop chart (PC), and yes, you read that right! It's not the most glamorous aspect of my job, but it's important! Each morning I mark if a dog ate or didn't, what their poop looks like, and if they urinated. This is valuable information for our veterinary staff. Since animals do not tell us when something's wrong, it's best for us to be proactive so we can address an issue right away and the PC is the best way of keeping track of a possible issue.

One of my favorite parts about doing morning occupancy is that I am the first person the animals see each morning and I love saying hi to everyone! I get to learn each dog's personality and I develop bonds with almost everyone. Here's my friend Vader who would bring me a toy each morning when he saw me. He would hang onto it and when I went around to the back of the kennel, he'd wait for me to say one more good morning to him.

Now, I try not to have favorites, but it's hard. This giant lovebug (that's an official breed now, you know) is Scooby-Doo. While he was here, we had a morning routine which started out with his brown eyes looking at me from over the wall of the back of his kennel. When I got to his kennel, he immediately went to the front of his kennel for our morning ritual.



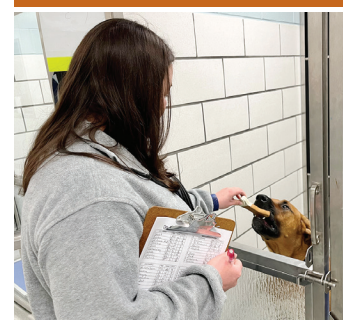
Checking in on the injured cat



Vader says, "hi!"



Morning greeting



A cookie for Scooby

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FIND US

716-875-7360
YourSPCA.org
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Twitter: @YourSPCA
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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.

FROM PRESIDENT & CEO CAITLIN DALY



About twelve years ago I started volunteering at a small animal rescue in Greensboro, NC. I started off helping with Bingo — BINGO! — which I absolutely loved. The shelter held Bingo games every Wednesday evening at a local Lion's club meeting hall to fundraise for operational costs. Pretty soon I graduated to walking dogs and cleaning kennels twice a week. I absolutely loved that work. The dogs were always so excited to see a person, and their stress levels dropped dramatically after a nice long stroll through the yard. After a few months, I graduated to an event volunteer. Local pet stores would host animal rescue organizations for adoption events, and these volunteering gigs were fantastic because you got to see animals leave with their new people.

All these positions and more exist here at the SPCA Serving Erie County — well, aside from the Bingo nights. That's ok, though ... we have so many fun events that you won't even miss the Bingo! Volunteers are so crucially important to the work that we do, so much so that (as the old adage goes) we couldn't do what we do without YOU! From bottle feeding kittens and orphaned opossums to pouring wine at yearly fundraising events, we truly have something for everyone.

The need has never been so great: now is the time to help! I still have so many fond memories from my time volunteering in North Carolina, not to mention friends and colleagues who I still communicate with today! I can't wait to see you around the shelter, and I hope you'll drop by and say hello!

Caitlin Daly
President & CEO

SPCA BEHIND-THE-SCENES: MORNING OCCUPANCY

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I would always stop and say hi to this gentle giant and he loved chest scratches and belly rubs. **One great thing for the animals at the SPCA is that while they are waiting for their new homes, they develop relationships with a lot of staff members and volunteers, and they are treated like one of our own pets.** With Scooby, I'd occasionally get him a giant cookie from Pet Supplies Plus.

After I check on dog kennels, I check on all the small animals, adoptable cats, and then all the cats and dogs housed in the infirmary. Once every area and animal has been accounted for, I make copies for multiple departments so they know what the current population looks like in the shelter.

Later in the morning our Shelter Manager walks through the shelter and goes over occupancy with the Behavior, Admissions, Adoptions, and Veterinary Services Departments. They keep track of each animal's progress on their way to adoption, ensuring they have everything they need before they are made available.



Making sure the charts are all in order

IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME A MASSIVE RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE HAD TO HAPPEN, AND QUICKLY.

As the second-oldest humane society in the United States, serving Erie County since 1867, members of our SPCA, sadly, have responded to various forms of violence for 155 years. From abuser awareness courses to humane training methods of law enforcement agencies to children's educational programs teaching anti-violence and compassion and respect and coping mechanisms to various outreach efforts in the form of giveaways and animal treatments and surgeries ... our donors, who wholeheartedly believe in the mission of making Erie County a more humane society, choose to fund or otherwise support these efforts every day.

But the tragic event that took place at a local grocery store on Jefferson Avenue May 14, 2022, was entirely different. The act can't be described as general, non-specific "violence." So many levels of racism and brutality and evil and hate and rage and barbarism and a million other words were evident in the cold-blooded killing of ten residents of Buffalo, Auburn, and Lockport. Our communities.

Celestine Chaney, Roberta A. Drury, Andre Mackneil, Katherine Massey, Margus D. Morrison, Heyward Patterson, Aaron Salter, Geraldine Talley, Ruth Whitfield, Pearl Young. Full of life, gone within moments. Killed by hate.

The wounded, Christopher Braden of Lackawanna, Zaire Goodman of Buffalo, and Jennifer Warrington of Tonawanda ... left with lives changed forever.

According to a May 23, 2022 NPR.org article, (www.npr.org/2022/05/23/1100574675/buffalo-plagued-by-economic-neglect-segregation-long-before-shooting-residents-s), "A 2018 study from Buffalo's *Partnership for the Public Good* described a wide, and growing, racial and socioeconomic chasm within Buffalo. 'While racial segregation has declined slightly in recent years, economic segregation has increased, resulting in neighborhood conditions growing worse — not better — for most people of color in the region,' the study found. 'Segregation imposes a wide range of costs on people of color, impairing their health, education, job access, and wealth. Individuals living in segregated neighborhoods tend to have less access to services that allow adequate standards of living, and their economic mobility is severely impaired.'"

The morning of May 14, members of the SPCA's Humane Education Department presented at the Stanley M. Makowski IB World School early

childhood center on Jefferson Avenue, bringing with them their lessons of kindness. Lessons that were vastly contrasted mere hours later. The reality of the NPR statements above were painfully magnified May 14.



Not only will the SPCA's existing efforts continue, but our organization has fast-tracked growth of its Outreach Program specifically to the communities that need assistance the most. Our initial response to the tragedy was immediate ... within hours, the SPCA and our Pet Food Pantry, with thousands of dollars' worth of assistance from Pet Supplies Plus and past owner Russell Herman, was working with FeedMore WNY to distribute thousands of pounds of pet food and other supplies to area pet owners in need. These distribution efforts continued for several weeks and will continue regularly. Paws for Love therapy teams were in place starting the week of May 16 at healing sessions sponsored by Buffalo neighborhood community centers, schools, and other organizations and businesses, providing adults and children with what may have been even mere moments of solace, coping with such massive loss. These therapy efforts will continue as well.

Responsibilities of staff members have already been reassigned to increase specific outreach measures in the areas of the city where they are most-needed. By the time this article appears in print and online, outreach activity will have increased exponentially.

The SPCA Serving Erie County may be called our area's "humane society," but it takes continuous action from all of the organizations and individuals who have committed to truly make our society more humane, more caring, more loving. **If you are interested in contributing to the efforts of the SPCA's Pet Food Pantry or one of our other outreach programs, please contact Amy Jaworski at (716) 875-7360, ext. 224 or ajaworski@yourspca.org. Information can also be found at YourSPCA.org/communityresources.**

COTTONTAIL RABBITS IN YOUR YARD

BY BARBARA HANEY, DIRECTOR OF THE
WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

It has been my great honor to have been a part of the Wildlife Department for eight seasons. It has been a pleasure to work and grow along with the department and one of the tools I use to measure our success is to go to our website and read our mission and contemplate how we're fulfilling it.

I contemplate these words, "We envision a community where animals are treated with compassion and respect," and consider how I'm helping our community to grow in compassion and respect for wildlife, including all species from field mice to eagles.

The most prolific species that we care for are cottontails. We admit around 600 cottontails each year. In terms of numbers, this is the species that we deal with most, and so I often consider bunnies when I think of our community and our efforts to be more compassionate and respectful of the animals. The Wildlife Department takes thousands of phone calls helping the public to be compassionate toward wildlife, and we learn a lot about the community by the nature of their calls. In fact, we often say that one can learn a lot about a person when a cottontail builds a nest in their yard.



after surviving a long, cold winter, and the arrival of the breeding season in the spring is a welcome opportunity for predators.

Many people call us when a cottontail chooses their fenced-in yard to build a nest. Some folks are incensed that a cottontail would enter their border to build a nest, especially if they have dogs. They question the cognitive abilities of the cottontail mother, "Why would she build a nest in OUR yard where there are dogs?" Many people think that the SPCA will come and take baby cottontails if they are in danger from the homeowner's dogs. But this isn't true. We suggest that the homeowners either keep control of the dogs with a leash for a short time or that when they let the dogs out, they put a bin of some sort over the nest to protect the babies from the dog. We ask that they make sure that the bin is removed and not cooking the babies during the day and ensure that the cottontail mother can come to feed the babies at dawn and dusk.



The Eastern Cottontail, *Sylvilagus floridanus*, is ubiquitous, being found all over the east coast from Canada to South America. They love to live on the fringes of open spaces and particularly love human habitats in the form of manicured lawns. They browse at dawn and dusk on grasses and herbs and sometimes yummy lettuces and other garden delectables. Females give birth to helpless young in shallow ground nests and only about 15% will live to their first birthday. Their life span is about three years if they can make it that long. They are a prey species which means that they are at the bottom of the food chain, and they're valuable to all the other species that rely on them for nutrition. Many animals that eat protein are often quite debilitated in the spring

One of the ways that we can create communities that treat wildlife with compassion and respect is to make our yards and spaces wildlife friendly. This is essential not only for the wildlife to thrive but also for us to thrive. Doug Tellamy states, **"Recently the World Wildlife Fund reported that Planet Earth has lost two-thirds of its wildlife since 1970. This jaw-dropping news joins a litany of recent reports about the decline of insects globally, the loss of 3 billion North American birds, the failure of the 150-nation global biodiversity initiative to meet any of its ten-year goals, and the prediction by the U.N. that one million species will go extinct in the next twenty years. Yet to those who justifiably conclude that the demise of our fellow earthlings is inevitable, I say 'Not in our yard!'"**

Consider your yard lucky if wildlife feels comfortable to roam through it. Plant native species and create spaces for wildlife, including the Eastern Cottontail. Over the next few months, the Wildlife Department will be doing a series of classes about ways to make your yard a Humane Habitat and we look forward to growing in compassion and respect for the wildlife in our area.

LEAVE A LEGACY OF COMPASSION

Let your love of animals become your legacy and help sustain the operations of the SPCA for years to come by including the SPCA in your estate plans. A bequest is one of the easiest and most impactful ways to support the SPCA's mission. Legacy giving options include:

- Wills
- Trusts
- Charitable gift annuities
- Life insurance policies
- Real estate and personal property
- Retirement benefits

For more information, visit YourSPCA.org/donate/planned-giving, or contact Jennifer Gurz, Chief Development Officer, at 716-875-7360 ext. 219 or jenniferg@yourspca.org.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer with the SPCA! Open positions include:

- ◆ Cat Colony Assistant
- ◆ Dog Behavior Assistant
- ◆ Educational Farm Assistant
- ◆ Foster Care Volunteer
- ◆ Kitten Nursery Attendant
- ◆ Humane Education Docent

... And more!

See all available positions at YourSPCA.org/volunteer.

Contact us: Volunteerservices@yourspca.org or 716-875-7360, ext. 232

Wine & Wags & BREWS!



THANK YOU

Thank you to our amazing corporate partners who helped make this year's Wine & Wags & Brews a huge success! **Your love and compassion for the animals in our community is immeasurable!**

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ADOPTION PHOTOS



Athena was adopted by Abigail's family



Geena adopted Polly



Yuelin adopted Larry



Gerald adopted Sweetness



Malcom adopted Bandit



Naomi was adopted by the Livingston family



Brandon adopted Chloe



Michael adopted Ditalini



Phoenix adopted Taylor



Nelida adopted Zipp



Lissa adopted Freedom

SPCA IS PROUD TO MANAGE THE ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CANINE (K9) RETIREMENT FUND



In July 2019, Narcotics detection K9 Roki served his last tour for the Erie County Sheriff's Office. Roki and his partner, Deputy Gerald Keicher had worked together since 2011 in the Erie County Holding Center. **“Roki loved his job as a single-purpose narcotics detection K9. He had over 150 finds in his career, and each one could've been an overdose which proves him to be a true testament to helping the community.”**

Upon his retirement, Roki didn't head right off to Miami. Instead, he retired to South Wales with Deputy Keicher. In lieu of sniffing out the bad guys, he enjoyed a more laid-back approach to life which included simply roaming around his yard and occasionally chasing a squirrel or two. What more could anyone want in retirement?

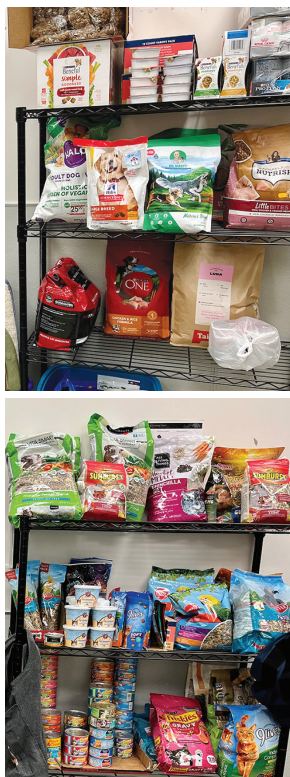
During his retirement years, Roki's veterinary care was provided by the Erie County Sheriff's Office Canine (K9) Retirement Fund which is managed by the SPCA Serving Erie County. This fund provides the veterinary care that retired Police K9s need during their retirement years. Deputy Keicher said, “Anyone who has had old dogs knows that it can be very expensive!

Roki had bloat twice and that cost thousands of dollars.”

Last December, Deputy Keicher and his family had to make the heartbreaking decision to say goodbye to 13-year-old Roki. Deputy Keicher thinks about Roki every day. “Every day when I would put Roki's collar on, he became focused because he knew it was worktime. And now his collar hangs in my rearview mirror in my patrol car and when I look at it, it reminds me to stay focused at what is ahead of me and not what is in the past.”

The SPCA is happy to be able to manage the Erie County Sheriff's Office Canine (K9) Retirement Fund to support the retirements of some of the most hard-working dogs in our community!

Meet Deputy Keicher and his two-and four-legged co-workers from the Erie County Sheriff's Office, including his new K9 partner, Link, at Paws in the Park!



PET FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO NEEDS HELP

The SPCA understands that family hardships can happen at any time. These hardships often affect household pets and struggling families may not be able to obtain pet food on a reliable basis. We're here to help. As a Foundational Partner in Human Animal Support Services (HASS), the SPCA works to keep pets with their families and to reimagine animal services to better support our community. The SPCA's Pet Food Pantry can provide temporary assistance to struggling families in need and no proof of hardship is required.

In addition to food, cat litter, collars, and leashes, other supplies may be provided depending on availability.

The food provided through this program has been graciously donated to the SPCA and because of this, we are unable to guarantee the brand or types of food that will be in stock, and we are unable to take requests for specific types of food.

Please contact Program Coordinator, Amy Jaworski at 716-875-7360 ext. 224 or ajaworski@yoursPCA.org for further information.

Interested in donating to the Pet Food Pantry? Thank you! We are currently in need of small bags of dry dog and cat foods, canned cat food, and litter. Please drop off these items at the SPCA in the Adoptions Lobby from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

PAWS in the PARK

September 24, 2022

Experience the thrilling return of Paws in the Park — **in-person and virtually!**

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Demonstrations: 9:00 a.m.

Welcome Ceremony: 9:45 a.m.

Walk starts: 10:00 a.m.



Beaver Island State Park

Register at YourSPCA.org

Presenting sponsor:



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