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## MISSION

To be a driving force in promoting animal welfare, strengthening the human-animal bond, providing humane education, and eliminating pet overpopulation.

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# Shelter Scenes

News for the friends and supporters of the SPCA Cincinnati

## Bravery and Valor on the Front Lines

I can honestly say that the SPCA Cincinnati has the greatest team of all time. I could easily end the editorial there, but you really need to know the reasons.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, our team has remained dedicated to our mission. The decision to remain open for pet care, yet closed to the public, was difficult. Limiting group sizes and modifying social constraints made it even more challenging. Protecting our team while caring for our pets is always in the forefront of our operations. We simply could not keep working with our typical standard operating procedures.

Our staff's number one objective is to provide excellent care for our pets, continually providing everything that our pets need to stay healthy, mentally active, and loved. Our team bears the responsibility of providing care and tenderness, remaining at work to help save pets even with the extraordinary steps we needed to follow to keep everyone safe. Our team stepped forward and accepted the challenge.

Innovation was the key. Improving and increasing the number of foster homes, ensuring the proper transfers to other animal welfare partners, managing our surgical resources to ensure a 100% healthy and sterilized pet population, and other creative ideas were the foundation for our success. The caring continues, even after pet care. Our team has been deep cleaning the kennels, scrubbing and sanitizing all surfaces, painting walls, organizing, and completing the best "spring cleaning" our organization has ever witnessed!



The passion for our mission does not end there. Other team members have been using their work from home time to be inventive, setting new standards of excellence. From creating YouTube content, to Facebook Live videos, to ensuring our events will be successful (by the way, Fur Ball is now on August 29, 2020). Our Development Department and Administration Team are, as always, driving toward the completion of our mission.

As you can see, our team is working hard for our pets. Unfortunately, with limited community access, we are feeling the impact financially. Our brave crew has done their jobs with valor and passion. But we still need help.

You are the reason we are able to continue providing these vital services to our animals. Please consider making a substantial donation to the SPCA Cincinnati today. Your increased commitment to help our dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, and other pets is essential.

This gratitude is not just from our team and I, but from all the animals that we care for and love.

Stay Healthy,



Jake White  
President & CEO

# Thank You, Pet Valu!



**SPCA Cincinnati is successful in caring for nearly 12,000 adoptable pets each year thanks to the incredible support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners like Pet Valu!**

We are thrilled to announce Pet Valu as the Presenting Sponsor of the SPCA Cincinnati's 2020 Tails on the Trail Walk. Join us on Saturday, October 17, 2020. In addition to critical fundraising support, Pet Valu provides monthly in-kind product donations to help the SPCA meet the ongoing demand of caring for countless adoptable pets that enter our shelters.

We are even more appreciative of Pet Valu's unwavering commitment to aid us in cat adoptions. The SPCA Cincinnati has adoptable cats in Pet Valu stores in the Greater Cincinnati area, so they have a higher chance of being adopted. The SPCA staff cares for these adoptable cats in preparation of their forever homes. Next time you visit Pet Valu, be sure to give our cats a little love. **THANK YOU, Pet Valu!**

## SPCA Cincinnati Celebrates Lifesaving Partnerships



Earlier in the year, the SPCA Cincinnati received a grant of \$50,000 from the Petco Foundation to expand the lifesaving capacity of our Managed Admissions program. The SPCA Cincinnati remains the only open-admission shelter in the Greater Cincinnati area. Managed Admissions has allowed our team to reduce misinformed surrenders, minimize stress to pets and their owners, and improve the mental and physical well-being of every animal entering our shelters.

Thanks to the Petco Foundation's generous investment, we are excited to take the next step — closing the technology gap within our shelters to better serve the Greater Cincinnati community. Through the purchase and installation of an integrated shelter communication system, our team will soon be able to:

- Prioritize managed admissions inquiries and scheduling while minimizing customer wait times
- Expand one-on-one consultations for owners seeking to surrender
- Understand, prepare for, and meet each pet's specific needs

**Please join us in celebrating the incredible partnerships that make our work at the SPCA Cincinnati possible!**



# What Is Kitten Season?

Kitten season is a very important time at the SPCA Cincinnati. “Kitten season” refers to the time of year when many litters of kittens are born at the onset of warmer weather when the cat population is more active and social. At the SPCA, kitten season usually occurs between April and October, but that duration seems to be expanding each year due to climate change. Our intake becomes inundated with hundreds of kittens during this period and we lean on the support of the community to help care for them.

From bottle babies who have not yet opened their eyes, to one or two siblings left behind with pending health concerns — we receive them by the dozen! Litters are found in back yards, under porches, in the park, and woodsy places where a momma cat can tuck her babies away from plain sight. When compassionate members of the community spot the kittens without mom, it’s a natural instinct for people to want to scoop up the “abandoned” babies and take them to safety. However, the SPCA Cincinnati asks that you stop and give mom eight hours to return. Allow her the opportunity to find her way back to where she’s left them. She may be in search of food or perhaps scared away for a brief moment. But she will be back. The best chance of survival is with mom — she has all the natural care and nutrients to prepare her litter for life.

A female cat can become pregnant at just 5 months of age and can have several litters in one year. Each litter averages four to six kittens. Gestation for a female cat is up to 67 days. That’s a lot of babies in one year! Unfortunately, this

level of breeding is one of the main factors contributing to the overpopulation problem.

The SPCA Cincinnati says: Don’t Kit Nap. Taking the litter from momma cat too soon does more of a disservice to the babies than we may realize. Again, the healthiest place to be is with mom. In the event momma cat does not return, contact our organization and ask how you can foster the litter. Our shelter will provide all the resources and training to help you achieve success as a foster parent. You’ll be saving lives and helping your community simultaneously by this act of kindness!

Another way to help during kitten season is to ensure that your cats are spayed or neutered. This is true even for indoor-only cats. Cats can be sneaky. The door only has to be open for a moment for your cat to escape and come back pregnant. Spaying and neutering make a huge difference!



# Beefcake's Journey Home



**“Beefcake” came to the SPCA Cincinnati as a stray hit by a car, with tire marks on his fur.**

SPCA Cincinnati Veterinarian, Dr. Smith, immediately cared for Beefcake. To avoid an amputation, Beefcake needed a specialized and expensive surgical fracture repair with continued medical treatment.

“We adore Beefcake and wanted to do everything we could to save his leg to give him good long-term mobility,” said Dr. Smith. “Thankfully we were able to bring in Dr. Brian Ward, of Veterinary Mobile Surgical Services, to fix Beefcake’s leg with a bone plate. We often reach out to other veterinarians in the community if we feel the animals could benefit from services beyond what we can typically do in our clinic.”

Dr. Ward cared for Beefcake post-surgery and the two became inseparable. Dr. Ward adopted Beefcake! Beefcake got the surgery he needed and the loving forever home he deserved.

THANK YOU for supporting the SPCA to make Beefcake’s surgery and care possible. Thousands of animals enter our shelter doors each year who are in desperate need of medical attention and count on you!

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## THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER



**\$25**

can buy 50 cans of wet food for kittens too young to chew



**\$50**

can provide five dogs in our care with flea and tick treatment



**\$100**

can help provide vaccinations and medical care

