

SPCA of Luzerne County
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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524 East Main Street
Wilkes Barre PA, 18702



A message from the desk of the Executive Director

The SPCA of Luzerne County's staff and army of volunteers have worked tirelessly throughout 2019 to embody the values represented by the three pillars of our mission: Education, Humane Society Police work, and Shelter/Adoption Programs. In 2019 we enjoyed many successes. We expanded our educational offerings, weaving education into nearly every service our organization provides, from educating our adopters on the best care of their new family member to teaching those accused of cruelty what they need to change in order to improve conditions for their animals. Our dedicated team of Humane Society Police Officers continues to respond to the hundreds of cruelty and neglect calls that flood our phone lines each year. We have also improved the level of care our resident animals receive here at the shelter by employing a full time veterinarian and significantly upgrading our veterinary equipment and procedures. Adoptions policies have been tweaked to improve our animals' chances at finding the best forever home. All of this requires your support. Together we can make a lasting difference in the lives of our furry friends.

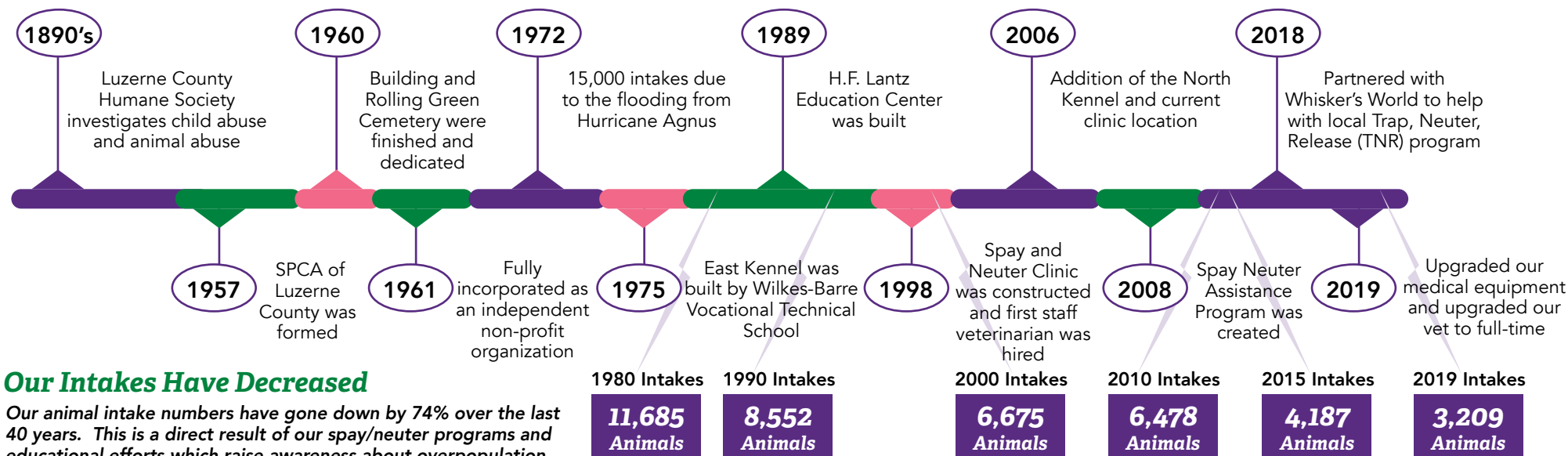
As we work our way through 2020 we have the constant reminder of wet noses and wagging tails telling us not to lose sight of our goals for the animals in our community who so desperately need our help. As you flip through this annual report you will read about a hoarding cruelty case that unfortunately is emblematic of a challenge we face far too often. You will also read about Karma, a beautiful dog with an unbreakable spirit. This sweetheart touched our lives and changed us all for the better. We trust that both stories will be living proof of why our work is so vital.

Our look toward the future is bright and filled with hope. We remain committed to strive for excellence in the services we offer and in the shelter our animals temporarily call home. With your continued help, we will grow our educational offerings from pre-school to senior citizens. Exciting plans are being developed to launch a major building improvement project in the next few years- setting our sights on a more functional space improving the sheltering of our animals available for adoption as well as upgraded, dedicated space for animals receiving veterinary care, and more useful space for community outreach. Of course, none of these improvements will be possible without all of you. It has always been, and will continue to be, your kindness and generosity that pave the way for a future filled with love, caring, and hope for our less fortunate furry friends.

To our volunteers, contributors, supporters, adopters, and community... Thank you for being the foundation of this organization. It is your kindness, generosity, dedication to our cause, and passionate help that allow us to serve our fellow man through service to animals. We must not waiver in our dedication to the protection of those who cannot protect themselves. We truly hope that we can count on you to remain steadfast with us as we strive for a more humane and caring society.

Sincerely,

Todd A. Hevner
Todd Hevner



MISSION STATEMENT:

The SPCA's mission is the prevention of cruelty to animals by providing:

- Shelter for unwanted, discarded, neglected, and often abused animals.
- An adoption program to place these animals into caring, permanent homes.
- Humane education programs to enlighten the public about animal problems.
- Humane law enforcement and prosecution programs to address animal cruelty.



What contributions does your SPCA make to the community?

The SPCA of Luzerne County's primary services are represented by the three foundational pillars of our mission: Protecting the abandoned, neglected, and abused animals of our county through Humane Society Police work; providing companion animal educational opportunities in our community from pre-school to seniors; and providing respite care and adoption programs for unwanted and abandoned animals, offering a second chance at a new life for the thousands of animals that find themselves in our care each year. We have a flourishing volunteer program, providing many varied ways to help our organization with the important work we do on behalf of the animals. In addition to helping us care for the animals, our volunteer program offers a multitude of opportunities for people of various physical and mental abilities, allowing them a chance to experience life at an animal shelter with heartwarming results.

How is the SPCA of Luzerne County funded?

Your SPCA is a private, non-profit, 501(c)3, local animal welfare organization founded in 1957 by a group of concerned citizens who recognized the need to protect those who could not protect themselves. Like most animal welfare organizations, we are not affiliated with any other shelter and do not have a parent organization. We are not, in any way, a government agency. We are supported by the generosity of individuals, organizations, and corporations through monetary and in-kind donations, participation in our yearly events, and through bequest and trust giving. In 2018, we started contracting with local municipalities as their service provider for stray cats and dogs. These contracts provide additional funding each year.

Our Board of Directors is a volunteer group of community leaders and individuals who share a deep concern for the welfare of animals. They lend time, professional skills, expertise and talents in a variety of fields, as well as financial support to the organization. The Board meets bi-monthly and is responsible for the governance, policies, programs, and financial condition of the SPCA of Luzerne County as the organization seeks to fulfill its mission.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

Nina Dei Tos Zanon
President

Karen Nocerine
Vice-President

Donna Patton
Treasurer

Anne Pelak
Secretary

Mary Anthony
Robert Bresnahan
Paul Lantz
Doris Magee
Allison Mahalak
Crystal Meinert
Lisa Natt
Garry Taroli

Marion Pearsall
Life Member

Sandy Rifkin
Life Member

Robert Weaver
Life Member

Services Offered



SPAY AND NEUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Spaying/Neutering your pet is the only effective way to reduce the pet overpopulation problem. We realize that this vital surgery can be cost prohibitive for some families in our community. The SPCA of Luzerne County has offered a spay/neuter assistance program (S/NAP) for the past 10 years offering financial assistance for low income households in our county. S/NAP spays/neuters over 600 cats per year, made possible through the generosity of private donations and the cooperation of several area veterinarians.

SENIOR PARTNERS

We offer a senior-to-senior adoption program; providing low cost adoptions to senior citizens who chose to provide a loving home to a senior pet.



END OF LIFE SERVICES

Although no one wants to say goodbye to their beloved pet, we are here to help when that time comes. We offer humane euthanasia services and cremation with return or burial of cremains. Our Rolling Green Pet Cemetery is the final resting place for hundreds of cherished pets. We can assist you in making these difficult final decisions showing deep respect for your companion.

PRISON PROGRAM

Partnering with Hunlock SCI, selected shelter dogs are paired with a specific group of inmates for training over a 6-12 week period of time. This is a wonderful program that give dogs a vacation from the shelter and the inmates a positive and productive way to spend their time. The program is referred to as "A New Leash on Life". Twelve dogs went through this program in 2019 and have all found homes.



and of course our favorite service...



ADOPTION

Our adoption counselors are here to help make the transition from shelter to home easier for both your new furry friend and your family.

Before adoption, make sure to:

Decide who will do what: grooming, feeding, exercising, cleaning, and playing.

Establish your new pet's area in the house.

Stock up on all needed supplies like food, treats, pee pads, litter, and toys.

Pet proof your home as needed.

Learn how to slowly introduce your new friend to other pets in the house.



3209 **Total**
Intakes in
2019

1575 Stray animals

963 Owner surrendered animals

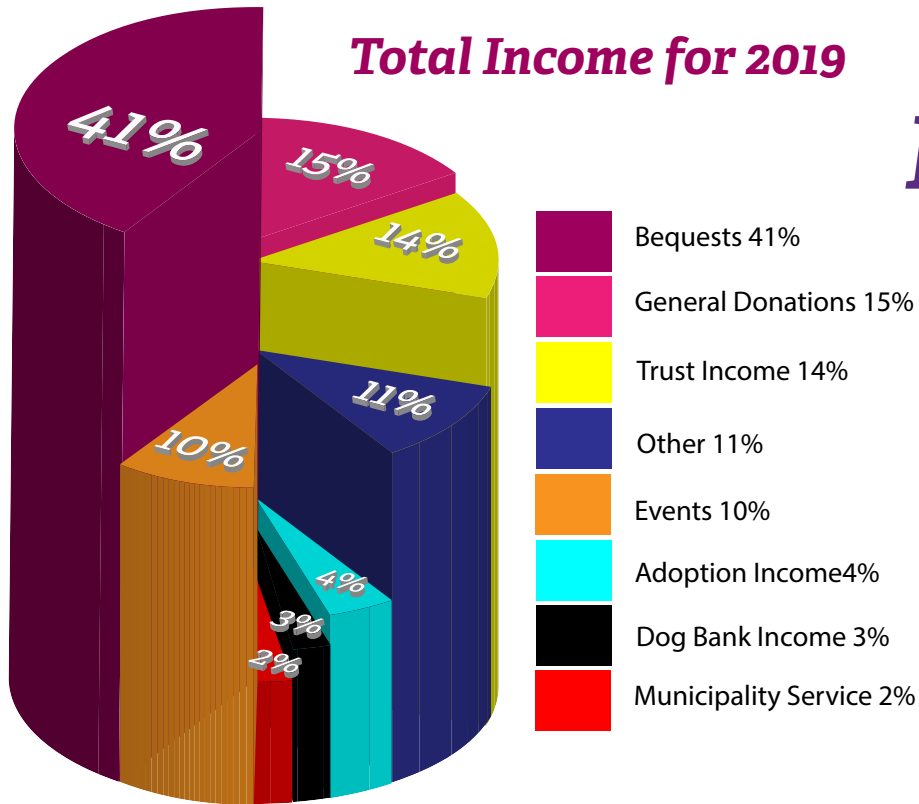
607 Owner requested end-of-life services

58 Returned adoptions into the care of the SPCA

4 Transfers in

2 Other

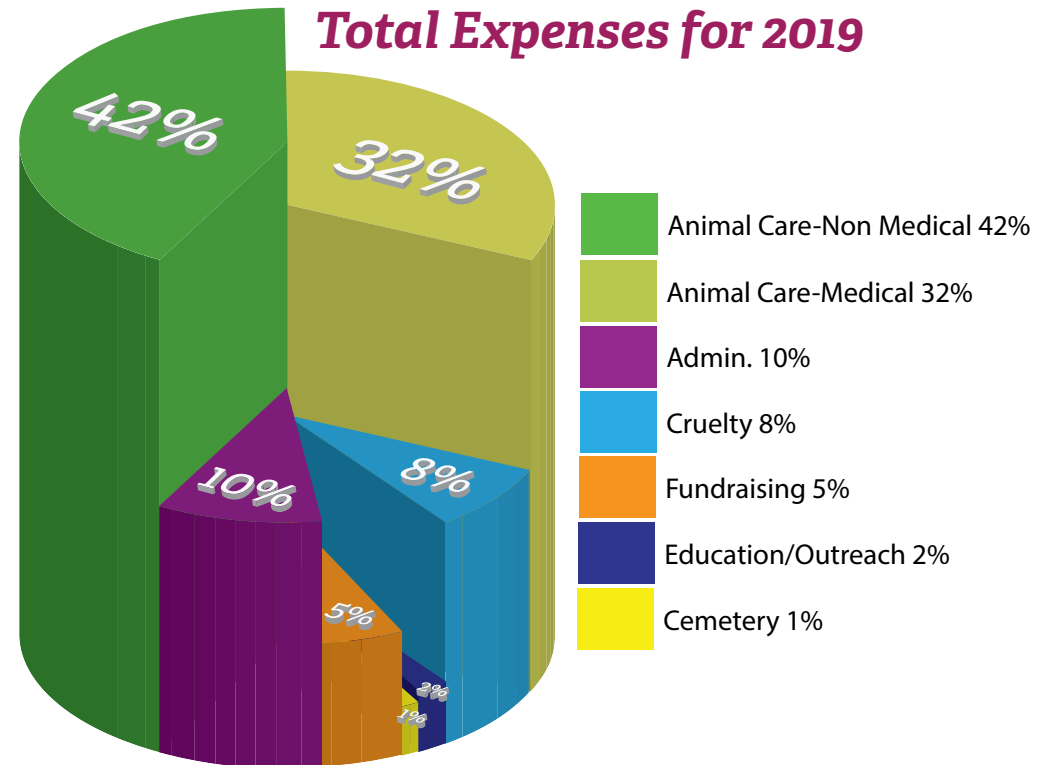
Total Income for 2019



Finances



Total Expenses for 2019



1738 Animals were returned to their owners, adopted or transfered in 2019

 **267**

Return to owner

 **988**

Adoptions

 **483**

Transfers out

Cruelty

Luzerne County 2019 Investigations

Duryea House – 2019



June, 2019
20+ Cats Living in Filth



We've certainly seen it many times before. One of our humane officers enters a house unfit for humans or animals. It is impossible to walk without stepping in filth. It is impossible to breathe with the extreme ammonia content in the air making your eyes burn. It is impossible to ignore the fleas that have found your bare skin and started to bite. It would be easy to throw down some food and walk away, but there are more than 20 cats dying a slow, horrible death here. Some had already succumbed.

It took us several days of setting traps to catch all of the cats and get them back to the shelter. Some of the smallest and the weakest were barely alive and suffering immensely. Sadly many didn't make it. None had any experience with loving, human contact.

The two women who lived in this house likely started out trying to save a few cats and then a few more, quickly going from a rescue attempt to a full-blown hoarding situation. The cats were suffering. It was out of control.

Cases like this are the reason why we have a low cost spay/neuter assistance program for low income cat owners. This is why we have a humane education program to teach children and community groups about responsible, compassionate pet ownership. This is also why we need three humane police officers responding to almost 1,000 calls each year about animal abuse and neglect.

We have made huge strides, but there is so much more to be done. Please help us by giving generously today.

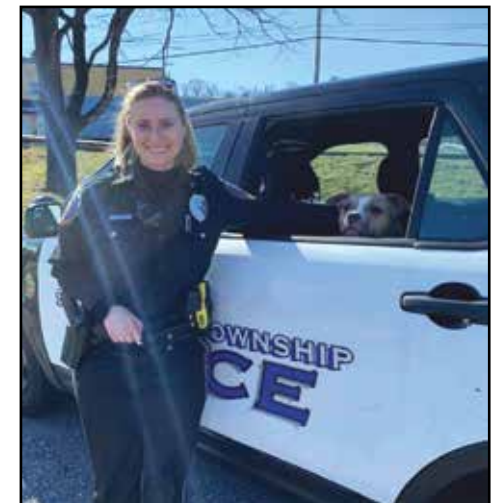


KARMA: Changed our lives in 2019

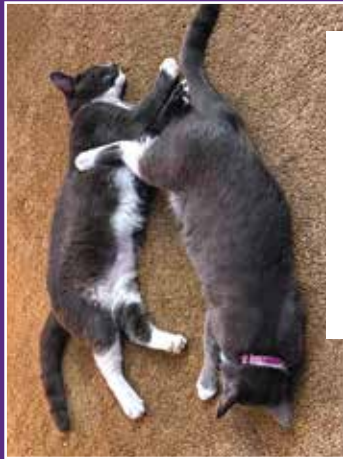
Karma was a pit mix living in some of the most deplorable conditions our humane officers had ever seen. Confined in a tiny crate surrounded by more than 3 dozen cats, she had a bent, broken tail, major skin problems and that was just what was immediately apparent. This dog's life had been horrible, but somehow she was the most loving and happy dog we had ever met. That broken tail would wag like crazy, as she flopped on her back to have her belly rubbed. She climbed on every lap she could find, covering faces with kisses. She deserved the very best home. But Karma still faced numerous obstacles. She had medical issues like mammary tumors and skin problems. We removed the tumors and continually treated the skin through diet and medication. Her case was tied up in the courts. We finally gained custody. The biggest obstacle turned out to be that she could not be around other dogs. So many potential adopters fell in love, but already had other dogs.

Many months passed until finally Harrisburg Humane Society said that they felt they could find her a home, so with tears in our eyes we said goodbye to this sweetheart, hoping she was finally headed for the home she deserved. More medical issues came up, making adoption seem unlikely, but in the end Karma went to live out her days on a fabulous farm.

Karma has been seen about town doing a ride-along with a Harrisburg Police Officer and running around fields of green. We miss you Karma, but we are glad the long fight we went through, got you what you deserved, a happily-ever-after ending.

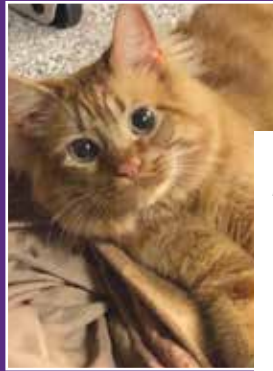


FINDING LOVING HOMES - 2019 ADOPTIONS



"I adopted from the SPCA of Luzerne county because I love animals and there's a lot cats in need of good homes. I choose to adopt Chrissy the cat because my kids fell in love with her. I support the SPCA of Luzerne county because they support the animals."

Chrissy, on the left, adopted by Pearl T.



Dexter, adopted by Jeanette Leigh W.

"We chose to adopt Dexter because he is adorable! And because he seemed to pick us as well when we first met him! He is so full of energy & gets along well with our 2 rescue dogs! He makes our family complete!"



"I love my rescue Dusty because they clearly broke the mold with him. He is the most gentle, well behaved dog I have ever met. Whether he is interacting with my son, our cats, our snake or any other animal or person he comes in contact with he is always friendly and affectionate. Even after the incredibly rough start to life he was dealt he is still a kind soul."

Dusty, adopted by Lace L.



Paco adopted by Anna M.

"I chose to adopt Paco because he just looked so little, cute, and mischievous in his adoption photo and we just fell in love with him. He is now the sweetest, cuddliest, HAPPIEST, and smartest bunny I've ever met! Adopt don't shop!"

Minnie, adopted by Alexandra B.

"I love my rescue, Minnie, because she has such a presence in our house and makes us smile on the worst of days. She has amazing recall and loves to visit her Nanny who lives up the street. Her favorite toy is her Kong and her least favorite activity is going to work (the vet) with her sissy (me) who works as a vet tech."



Kellen and Llewellyn (Formerly Coconut and Squirt) adopted by Jill S.

"I chose to adopt Kellen and Llewellyn because they were a bonded pair and I didn't want them to ever be separated."



Zoe and Bailey, adopted by John T.

"I adopted from the SPCA of Luzerne County because SPCA dogs are the greatest. I choose to adopt Bailey because she is exactly like- if not related, to my other SPCA dog- Zoe. I support the SPCA of Luzerne County because they are the best"



Harley, adopted by John T.

"I adopted from the SPCA of Luzerne County because SPCA dogs are the BEST and I choose to adopt Harley because my spouse always wanted a lap dog. I support the SPCA of Luzerne County because why would you want to get a pet from anywhere else... Harley - because he snores like a motorcycle."

Willow (Formerly Daisy) adopted by Kate Z.



"We adopted Willow because you could tell she wanted a best friend just as bad as we did. We love our little calico girl!"



Flash, white dog, adopted by Jennifer E.

"We chose to adopt Rocket (now Flash) because he immediately connected with our kids and 2 dogs. In a time where we were all upset over the passing of our old dog, Flash helped our kids with it. Since being adopted he has opened up and turned into a playful puppy who just celebrated his 2nd birthday and his 1 year adoption day! Even in quarantine he got a birthday party with his kids, toys, treats and ice cream."



"We chose to adopt Jesse because he is one of a kind and reminded us of our old German shorthair pointer we had! He's our spoiled boy now."

Jesse
adopted by
Montana R.



Sophie and Rose
adopted by
Dani E.

"I chose to adopt Malloy because he kept popping up on my Facebook newsfeed. I just had to say goodbye to my sweet ginger cat Skimble only weeks before. I feel he sent Malloy to me. I love my rescue Malloy because he is the coolest cat!"



Malloy adopted by
Amanda B.

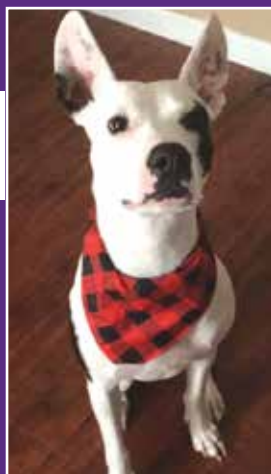
Olivia adopted by Mia F.

"I love my rescue cat Olivia because she is the most loving, cuddly cat I could ever ask for! She makes my life better."



"I adopted Nelly and I love him because he's my best friend."

Nelly adopted by
Amber P.

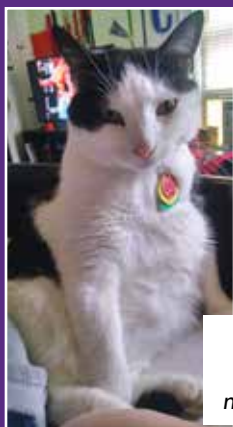


"We absolutely ADORE her. We chose to adopt Muji because of her fluffy fur and curious eyes! We love Muji because she is silly, unpredictable, and adorable! I choose to adopt from the SPCA of Luzerne County because it is close and they made the process easy!"

Muji adopted by Kelsey P.

Marvin adopted by Bridget M.

"We chose him because he was a super sweet puppy who wanted nothing but love. We love Marvin because he is super smart and knows exactly how to lift our spirits and get us up and moving (even when quarantine gets us down). We love the SPCA."



Oreo, formerly Giuseppe,
adopted by
Nancy J.

"I love my rescue Oreo because he is the sweetest most loving cat. Thank you!!!"

"I adopted Rose (right) in 2017. I had just gotten my own place and it felt empty and lonely. I needed a friend, and after looking at a kitten in a cage at the back of the cat room I had thought my mind was made up, until on the walk out I saw this shy cat cowering in her cage. Her beauty caught my eye, and without hesitation, she was mine. I have never regretted a day with Rosie. I adopted Sophie (left) in 2019. I didn't plan on getting another furever friend anytime soon, but I was scrolling through Facebook and saw her lovely face, with that silly little nose stripe, and I felt something in my heart. I left work, drove up to the SPCA, and like it was fate- a volunteer was holding her in her arms right at the door in the cat room. I immediately said, 'That's her! I need her!' and she was mine. The amount of joy that these two have brought me is indescribable. My life is so much brighter because of them."

In 2019 328 Volunteers

helped at the SPCA

Volunteers at the SPCA of Luzerne County worked tirelessly for more than **12,000 hours, saving \$83,888.**

Volunteers help directly with the animals, cleaning the cat houses at our pet partner locations, walking and socializing the dogs, and some even help with our small animal room.

Opportunities that our volunteers take on!

- Cleaning, feeding, socializing the animals – cat, dog, small animal and/or offsite pet partners
- Dog walking and grooming
- Adoption events
- Laundry, laundry and more laundry!!!
- Administrative work
- Donation drives
- Can crushing and prepping recycled aluminum
- Photographing adoptable animals for kennel card photos
- Fundraising committees/working fundraising events



WHY I HELP!

"I love taking the dogs out to Adoption Events for exposure and seeing how happy they are to get away from it all for a few hours—it's so rewarding. Especially when it results in a happily ever after!! Each adoptable animal has touched my heart. Over the years, that's a whole lot of touching moments. Also, I couldn't ask for nicer volunteers and staff. They're all like family to me and we all have the pet's interests at heart."

-Carol S.

"We love doing the Adoption Events, meeting and working with so many awesome volunteers and not to mention all the great animals over the years. It is especially rewarding to have a part in getting our fur babies to a forever home!"

-Sandy & Craig A.

"At first the shelter was just a place for me to get some volunteer hours for school, but it turned out to be a place where I can find comfort and give comfort to the animals. It's a safe place where I can relax and de-stress from the rest of the world. The shelter has become such an important place to me and has led me to such amazing animals that I can now call my best friends."

-Samantha N.

"Why volunteer? Well, good question! One, I've always loved and cared for animals— one of my dreams was to work with them and this gave me that chance. Two, I rescued a breed that I was cautious about— the Pitbull. I learned to not judge a book by its cover! Worf has reintroduced me to another part of my life – the love of drawing, writing and photography. Third, it taught me the importance of advocating for the "underdog/cat".. the broken, unwanted and abused. But most of all, I just love being a volunteer."

-Melanie A.

We ♥ Our Volunteers!



Gloria and Carol



Kristyn and Nate



Mitchell and Kimberly



Neal and Donna



Sam and Noah



Sharon

"Thank you for all you do! I volunteer because I want to make a difference in that animal's life. The SPCA is like another family to me and they always make me laugh."

-Kim S.

"Volunteering is important to me because of what the SPCA believes in. Rescue the mistreated, save the injured and love the abandoned. Being a part of this great team of fellow volunteers and staff allows me to do my small part to help out."

-Carol A.

Our Community Cares



"Just Call On Me Brother...



When You Need A Hand"

(Bill Withers)

A huge thank you to the troops we rallied for a day of re-vamping the north dog kennel. On Wednesday, July 17th, 2019 we had volunteers scrubbing, painting and building new Kuranda beds which had been purchased through a fundraiser (over 80 beds were donated!) for the many animals that reside in the kennels every year. Together we stand united for a more caring and compassionate world.



Karma getting some love and attention from Liz.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

The SPCA of Luzerne County has many Pet Partner locations where our adoptable cats, and sometimes small animals, can be seen. This helps us by adding to the limited space we have at the shelter, allowing us to give exposure to more animals. Animals at these locations are mostly cared for by our dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to make sure these animals have the best lives possible while waiting for their forever home.



PetSmart in Wilkes-Barre



Petco in Edwardsville/WB



Pet Valu in Wyoming



Pet Supplies Plus in Wilkes-Barre

The Bottom Line Is... Volunteers Save



What the **Future** holds

The SPCA of Luzerne County has many new initiatives coming up and you can help! These are some of the projects we are currently working on either advancing or starting.

Education Program Goals

- Design and print 1000 custom coloring books
- Design and print 50 custom story books

PURCHASE

- Computer, projector, and other electronics/peripherals
- Props (Life size stuffed animals, mascot costumes)
- Other SPCA promotional items (pens, crayons, bookmarks)
- Other printed items (educational fliers)
- Story time videos

Building Improvements

- Remodel east kennel
- Update north kennel "Animal Exposure Project"
- Replace concrete walkway
- Replace raised planters

Clinic Upgrades

- Upgrade clinic equipment
- Improve layout

Adoption Assistance

- Seniors for Seniors
- Pets for Vets



Searching and Finding Loving Homes



***Get
Involved!
Be A Part...***

SPCA bunny at Subaru of
Wyoming Valley's
Howl-o-ween Parade.



Of Course You Can Adopt BUT How Else Can You Help?

TIME

- Volunteer as an individual
- Organize a volunteer day-of-caring with your co-workers
- Help at our events
- Host an event
- Many other opportunities!!!!

TALENT

- Veterinarians have helped with Rabies Clinics
- Lawyers help with humane cases
- Surveyors and engineers have helped with expansions
- Groomers get our pets adoption ready
- And much more!!!!

TREASURE

- Become an event sponsor
- Become a monthly or round up donor
- Get added to our mailing list for our annual fundraisers
- Think of us during your estate planning

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Like and share our events on social media
- Share our adoptable animal posts
- Hold a "Pet of the Month" post at your office
- Collect aluminum cans
- Host a dress down day
- And any other way to spread the word for the animals



2019 EVENTS HELD

Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors:

Subaru of Wyoming Valley –
Ed Napelton Automotive Group

A. Rifkin Co.

GWC Warranty

Berkshire Asset Management

Cork Bar and Restaurant

Marquis Art and Frame

PNC Bank

Genettis

A. Pickett Construction

Rain Stopperz

Three Dog Bakery

Latin American Cultural Study Group

Stanley Steemer

Wychok Realty

Fast Signs

2019 Walk
for the
Animals



2019 Purse Bingo



2019
Howl-o-ween
Parade



2019 Pet
Expo



2019 Bone Appetit



2019 Golf Event



Third Party Events

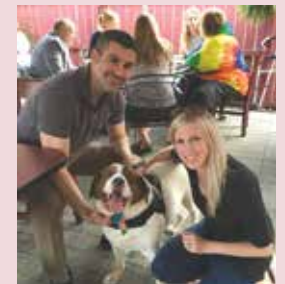
Wyoming Valley Motorcycle Ride



Skate for the Animals



Dog Days
of Summer
at Cork
Bar and
Restaurant



2019 SPCA of Luzerne County Supporters

Donations over \$10,000

Richard Brenton Estate
 Petsmart Charities, Inc.
 Joseph Romanchak Estate
 Marguerite Stack Estate
 Paula Scott Estate
 Shirley Singer Estate
 John Wancho Estate
 Ethel Wright Estate
 Wyoming Valley Motorcycle Club

Donations \$5,000 - \$9,999

Nicholas P. Chiumento, DO
 Bernis & John Emmett
 Dolores Seitz Estate
 Paul D. Wasserott Foundation

Donations \$2,500 - \$4,999

Berkshire Asset Mgmt., Inc.
 Cork Bar & Restaurant
 GWC Warranty
 Paul & Kathy Lantz
 Osma Lispi
 Mary Seigfried Estate

Donations \$1,000 - \$2,499

Back Mountain Kennel Club
 Beyond Behavior Consulting, LLC
 Blackhorse Foundation
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Focus Forward
 Luzerne County Bar Association
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 Sharon & Paul Kowalek
 Irene Kubicki
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 Ruth Lesavage
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 H. Joyce Morano, MD
 Robert & Carol Nygren Jr.
 Joseph & Erma Paglianite
 Pizza Perfect Inc.
 PNC Bank
 Ruth & Paul Scotti
 Thomas Wandell
 Gerald & Penny Yenchick

Donations \$500 - \$999

A. Pickett Construction, Inc.
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 HCR Manor Care
 Alice Janowski
 Donna Jones
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 Lois & Frank Morgis
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 Cheryl & Ron Pajor
 Anne Pelak
 Petco Foundation
 Patricia Pizzola
 William Quinn
 Wylie Raab
 Sand Springs Country Club
 Melinda & Rick Sowers
 Stanley Steemer
 Joseph Stortz
 The Luzerne Foundation
 The National Slovak Society Dist 2
 Three Dog Bakery
 Tory Tomassetti-Long
 Mary Ellen Vodzack
 Sherry Warrick
 Andrea & Dierk Wessel
 Westguard Insurance Company

Thank you to the 1000's of individuals that donate and make it possible for us to take care of the animals. No amount is too small to help our furry friends in need.



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