

SPCA of Luzerne County 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CHECK OUT *Wheezy's Story* INSIDE - page 6

Mighty Max's
Story - page 8

Feeding/Sheltering
the Cows - page 11



524 East Main Street
Wilkes Barre, PA 18702

A message from the desk of the Executive Director

Dear friends of the SPCA of Luzerne County,

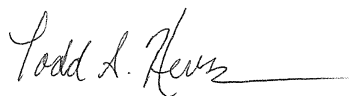
When I came to the point recently where I was looking both forward and back, evaluating the ending year, and contemplating the one to come, I realized once again how much the SPCA of Luzerne County has to be thankful for. The purpose of an annual report is to do that evaluation of the past and future. This annual report contains triumphs, horrors, and plenty of challenges. But we know that we can always rely on a dedicated staff, passionate volunteers, and a generous community of individuals, businesses, and organizations to get us through.

As you turn these pages you will read about multiple agricultural cases including unbelievable cases of neglect and abuse. You will also learn that our Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate & Return program realized tremendous growth. The numbers of sterilized community cats increased substantially, but perhaps even more keystone to our success were the volunteers and partner organizations that provided the countless hours of labor necessary to positively impact this life-saving program.

It will come as no surprise that I believe a healthy community has robust and active animal welfare organizations; caring for the stray, abandoned, neglected, and too often abused animals with whom we choose to share our lives. You, our friends and supporters, are the bedrock we build our life-saving efforts upon. With your help Your SPCA can continue in our vital mission to be the voice of the voiceless and to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

Thank you for being part of our past and the foundation of our future. We are confident that that with you as a partner, we can remain steadfast in our commitment to move our community toward a more humane and caring society..

Sincerely,



Todd S. Hevner



SPCA 2022-2023 Board of Directors

President
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Robert Bresnahan

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Nina Nichols

Sara Novoa

Garry Taroli, Esq.

Life Members:

Marion Pearsall

Robert Weaver

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.

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.



MISSION STATEMENT:

The SPCA of Luzerne County uplifts our community by providing compassion, comfort, and care to domestic companion animals through education, advocacy, protection, and a shelter/adoption program.

Our Intakes Have Decreased

Our animal intake numbers have gone down by 74% over the last 40 years.

This is a direct result of our spay/neuter programs and educational efforts which raise awareness about overpopulation.

1980 Intakes

11,685
Animals

1990 Intakes

8,552
Animals

2000 Intakes

6,675
Animals

2010 Intakes

6,478
Animals

2015 Intakes

4,187
Animals

2019 Intakes

3,209
Animals

1957

SPCA of Luzerne County was formed

1960

Building and Rolling Green Cemetery were finished and dedicated

1961

Fully incorporated as an independent non-profit organization

1972

15,000 intakes due to the flooding from Hurricane Agnus

1975

East Kennel was built by Wilkes-Barre Vocational Technical School

1989

H.F. Lantz Education Center was built

1998

Spay and Neuter Clinic was constructed and first staff veterinarian was hired

2006

Addition of the North Kennel and current clinic location

2008

Spay Neuter Assistance Program was created

2018

Partnered with Whisker's World to help with local Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) program

2019

Upgraded our medical equipment

2021

Major improvements and strides in our TNVR program to help the community cats of Luzerne County

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 more than 10 years offering financial assistance for low income households in our county. S/NAP spays/neuters over 600 house 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 choose 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.



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:

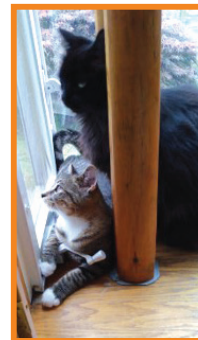
Decide who will do what: grooming, feeding, exercising, cleaning, and playing.

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.



3331 Total
Intakes in
2022

1514 Stray animals

779 Owner surrendered
animals

675 Owner requested
end-of-life services

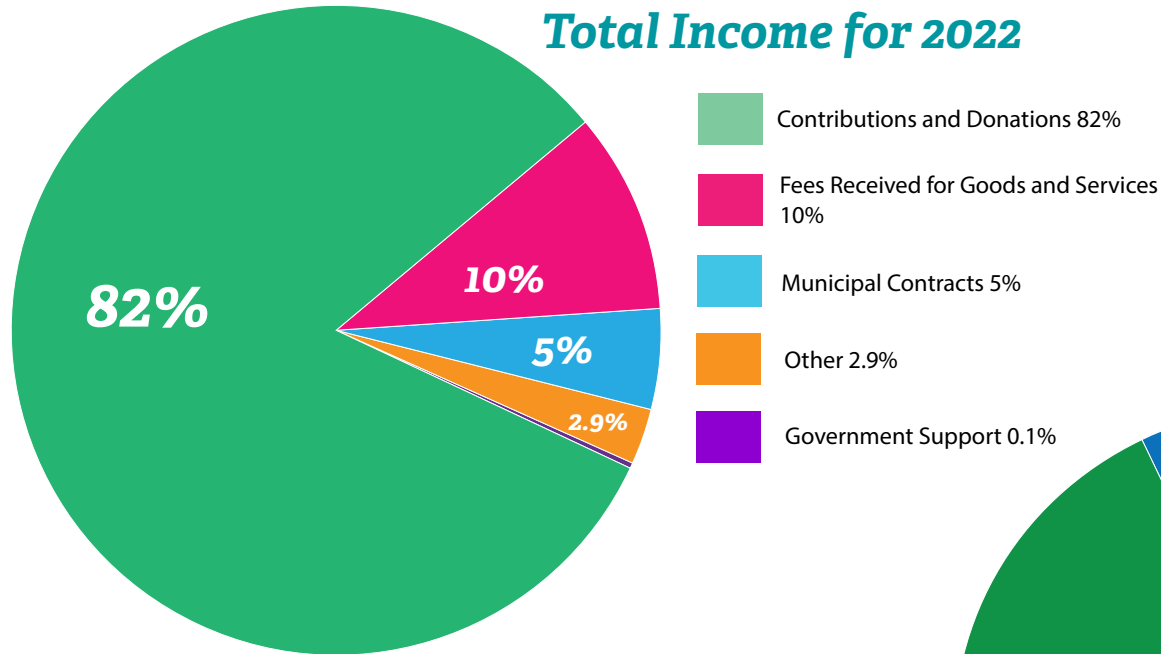
63 Returned adoptions into
the care of the SPCA

297 Clinic Intakes

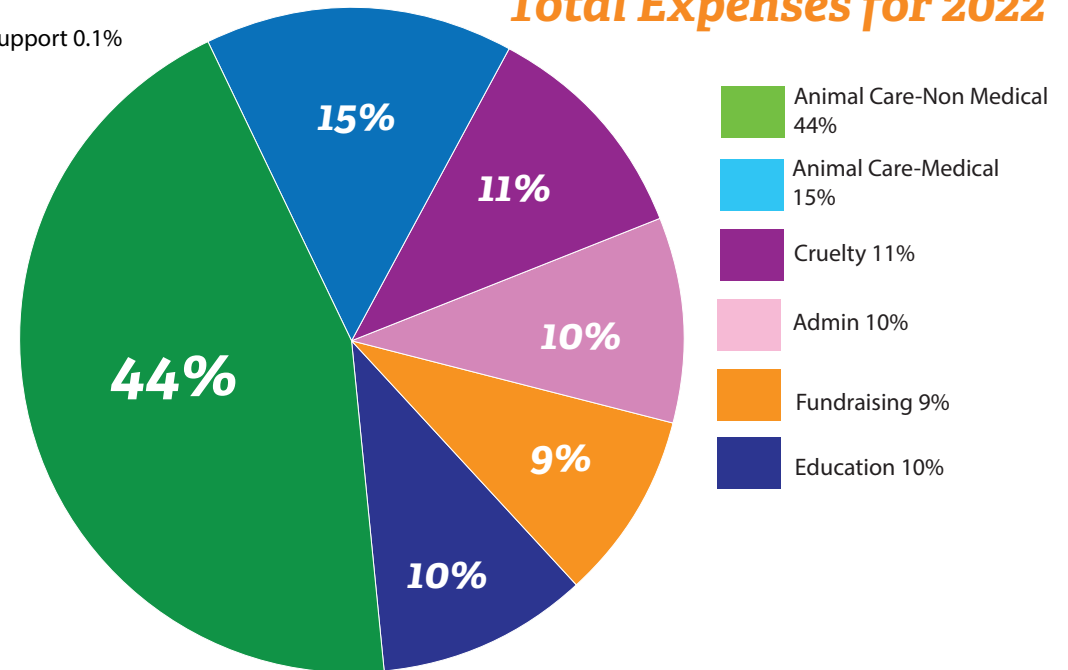
3 Other

Finances

Total Income for 2022



Total Expenses for 2022



1987 animals were returned to their owners, adopted, transferred, or TNVR in 2022

 **276**

Returned to owner

 **742**

Adoptions

 **337**

Transferred out

 **632**

Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return

Cruelty

Luzerne County 2021 Investigations

Wheezy

During September of 2022, the SPCA of Luzerne County received a cute, lively, young Pitbull puppy from a young woman who unfortunately could no longer care for her.

It will come as no surprise to learn that our Staff quickly fell in love with this 8-week-old cutie pie. Realizing how underweight she was, she was immediately placed on a vet recommended feeding schedule. After watching her initial encounter with food we saw that she gulped and wheezed while eating. It quickly became apparent that this sweet puppy had something very wrong. We named her, Lil' Wheezy.

After consulting a veterinarian, this young pup was diagnosed with megaesophagus. This serious condition made eating and swallowing food very difficult. Malnutrition and starvation were a real concern. Learning how to care for her special needs became a priority. We knew that she would need ongoing care and accommodations for her illness.

Wheezy didn't know she had problems. She thrived on all of the love and attention quickly learning to eat in a stand-up chair to ensure proper eating, prevent regurgitation, and make sure no food ended up in her lungs. The veterinarian and animal care team that continued her care were head-over-heels in love and Wheezy essentially became the Shelter mascot. The education department quickly looked for additional ways to help Wheezy such as a bouncy chair for after meals, adjusting the height of her feeding chair to accommodate her slowly growing body. This spunky pup began to put on weight and grew accustomed to getting in her chair for feeding.

She spent her first holiday with the veterinary assistant who cared for her daily making a lot of new friends along the way. She loves her human grandma, and her half-brother, a husky, and half-sister, a Lab mix. She made friends with Larry, an old TNR cat that resides in the executive director's office spending her days in different offices playing, napping, and stealing hearts.

One day a wonderful couple, who had adopted from us before, met Wheezy. They kept coming back to see her and this January they became her foster family. She is now spending her days going on adventures to Lowes and meeting domestic and farm animals that live on the property with her. Wheezy is still under our veterinary care, but is thriving despite the odds previously against her. Once again, we have watched an underdog become a first-class pet.



Cruelty continued

Pumpkin

On a cold winter's day in February 2022 the SPCA's Humane Society Police Officers responded to a complaint of animals being neglected. What our officers were confronted with was nothing short of heartbreaking. Two dogs: Pumpkin, a 7-month-old Pit mix, and her mother Ruby were living in complete filth. While Ruby was only slightly underweight, Pumpkin was not so lucky. Her prognosis was grim. When seized, she had a body score index of 1 out of 9. Pumpkin was emaciated, had pneumonia, and Lyme disease. Knowing that time was not on Pumpkin's side, our officers immediately took her to Northeast Veterinary Referral Hospital. Due to her condition and diagnosis, she spent her first few nights in our custody at the emergency veterinary clinic with 24-hour care. She received multiple fluid infusions, urinalysis tests, x-rays, nebulizer treatments, constant oxygen, and all other medical exams deemed necessary as well as a variety of medicines. Finally, on February 26, 2022, the SPCA staff brought this poor broken soul to our shelter. Knowing that she was not out of the woods yet, the staff continued to monitor her progress and follow the veterinarian's recommended health care plan. Pumpkin's medical plan included a list of daily medications and a strictly portioned diet to begin the long, slow process of gaining weight and regaining strength. Pumpkin's struggles did not end here though. On March 2nd, a staff member was concerned when she noticed that Pumpkin appeared to be slightly off-balance. She was quickly returned to the emergency clinic. After receiving another round of x-rays and fluids, the hospital staff confirmed that she had suffered a setback with the pneumonia returning. This time she ended up with a collapsed lung. She spent the next 24 hours at the emergency clinic where she received round-the-clock care. On

March 3rd, she was again discharged back to the SPCA in guarded, but optimistic condition. Back at the shelter it was time for full on TLC. The staff and volunteers at the SPCA understand a successful recovery does not only involve the right medical care. Pumpkin needed to feel loved. An entire team of people stepped up to the plate, spending time with Pumpkin, letting her sleep in their offices, curl up on their laps, and show her the love all puppies deserve. Every day that passed she began to gain weight, trust humans again, and gain strength in her back legs. In just two short months, Pumpkin made a full recovery!

If we had to pick one word to describe her, it would be fighter. She got her forever home in April **WITH HER MOTHER** Ruby. During the holiday season, her humans stopped by on a Saturday to say hello. We asked them how the girls were and they went and brought them back. We were thrilled to see them and how she has grown up! She is now healthy and happy with an Amazing Family.



ALWAYS ADOPT DON'T SHOP

"His little imperfection makes him the perfect little man for us."



Max, adopted by
the Michael family

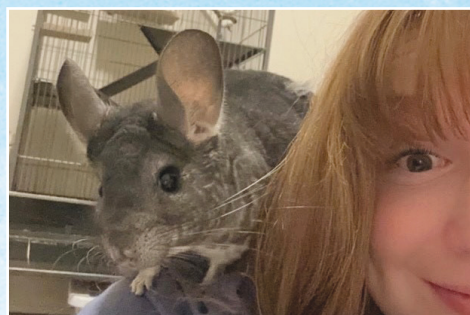


We couldn't imagine our family without Max. He has brought such calm and joy to our home. After losing our rescue cat to cancer our daughter begged to visit the shelter. We explained to her that it may take several visits because we believe a rescue picks you and not the other way around. Our daughter was set on a kitten until Max picked her. Max pawed and pawed at the barrier each time my daughter walked by. When our daughter reached out to hold Max he immediately curled up in her arms and did not let go. Max has one eye. He may have been passed up by others because of his appearance. He has no issues and has adjusted so well to his "disability". Max has reinforced our feelings about loving something for who they are not how they look. If we went right for the cute cuddly kitten and passed by the not so perfect looking cat, we would have missed out on true love and joy. Please give shelter animals a chance. As my daughter says it the best "His little imperfection makes him the perfect little man for us. Always adopt don't shop". Thanks to all the staff of the Luzerne County SPCA for saving Max and making our family whole again.



Cashew (right) is pictured here with one of his three female bunny friends. He especially enjoys hopping all over the house and loves treat time ! It didn't take him long at all to fit right in.

Cashew, adopted by Dawn B.



Willow, adopted by Alayna H.

Adopting Willow (previously Captain Chimichanga) was one of the greatest decisions I have ever made! She is the perfect furry companion and loves all of the attention (and yummy apple stick treats) she receives on a daily basis. I am so happy to have given her a loving home and in return getting the most perfect chinchilla.

I'd like to say that God smiled on us the day we found Toby. He was a stray that someone had dropped off at the shelter. He has turned out to be the perfect dog for my husband and myself. He loves us totally as we do him. He has brought so much joy and love into our lives & our home. I just could not imagine our life, now, without him ♥ We're truly blessed with our little Toby Man!!



Toby, adopted by
Cecelia H.



Sparkles, adopted by Nicole V.

Sparkles is such a sweet boy! We had been searching for a rabbit to add to our family for awhile, and when we saw his picture on the SPCA website, we knew he would be the perfect addition! We love to spend time with our little man, watching him explore the world around him. We are so thankful to the Luzerne County SPCA for rescuing Sparkles and giving us the opportunity to become his family.



My finance and I chose to adopt Radar. One day we walked into PetSmart to buy a fish tank and there he was. It was love at first sight. We both instantly fell in love with this handsome young man.

Radar, adopted by
Rianna N.



Ellie, adopted by Robbie H.

Ellie was a long term resident at the SPCA and tugged on mine and my daughter's heartstrings. Watching her blossom into the happy, healthy dog she was always meant to be has been a delight, and bringing her into our family was a highlight of 2022! We love our Ellie Belly! She really is the best girl! For my daughter's 6th birthday, she actually asked for donations for the SPCA in lieu of gifts because she loves Ellie so much.



Bill and Ted, adopted by Carissa and Sam C.

We renamed them Bill and Ted. Our 2 boys absolutely adore them and we were so happy to be able to give 2 of the best cats a forever home and welcome them into our family.

Like Bill and Ted say
"Be excellent to each other!"



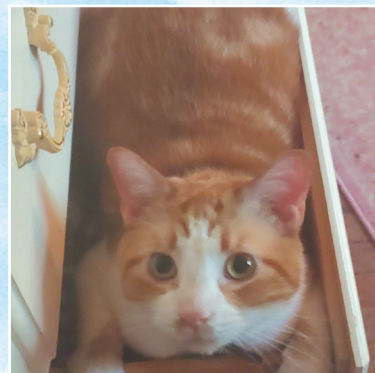
Sabrina, adopted by
Stephen V.

Sabrina is a wonderful addition to my life. She is very adventurous and follows you around the house to be involved in all activities. I believe we both make each other very happy, and I hope I am lucky enough to have that last for years to come.



Mattie is my blind best friend, terrible for getting the mice in my house, but his cuteness makes up for it!

Mattie, adopted by
April S.



Sierra, adopted by Dawn D.

I adopted Sierra (formerly Tiki) because I like the looks of an orange and white cat, and he was the cutest one I've seen. Sierra is a sweet goofball who loves to sit in my dresser drawers!

We ♥ Our Volunteers!

Opportunities that our volunteers take on!

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

 **Twelve Days of December Fundraiser!!!**

During the month of December the SPCA will be raffling off \$100 gift certificates to 16 different local restaurants along with some fabulous gift baskets all for a \$10 donation!!!

Thank you sponsors!   



**Thank you Dr. Nick,
Yo-Ma, and Twiggy
for helping sponsor
our raffles!!!**



The humane society police officers at the SPCA needed equipment to continue their work of protecting our animals. The supporters stepped up and raised over \$15,000 during our "Help the Humane" mini-campaign that ended with the #BettyWhiteChallenge! From digital thermometers to computers and even a freezer, the humane team was able to upgrade their equipment to efficiently protect those without a voice in Luzerne County. Thank you to everyone who supported the humane team's efforts!

**"HELP
HUMANE
2022"**



Our dedicated volunteers
were back to helping us **IN PERSON**
in 2022 and we loved it!!!!

Over 300 volunteers work tirelessly to make our events successful, walk our dogs, socialize the cats and small animals, and so much more.

Thank you all for the help!!!!

Volunteers Save the Day - A MOOVING DAY FOR THE SHELTER!

Our community and volunteers never stop amazing us! In the hot and dry summer of 2022, our Humane Society Police Officers received word about dozens of sick calves on a farm. Not knowing exactly how to handle this many, the team called our friends and supporters of all kinds and within 24 hours the calves had all been transported to the shelter, seen by a vet, and were being cared for. These volunteers stepped up when called, helping to medicate, feed, transport, clean, and whatever else that was needed to keep these calves comfortable and happy.



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.



**Bottle
Feeding the
Babies**



PetSmart in Wilkes-Barre

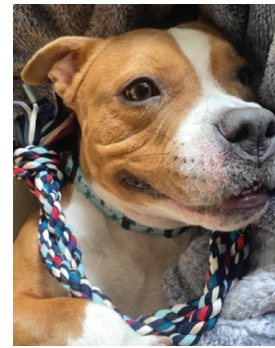


PET SUPPLIES PLUS

GREAT PRICES. NO BEGGING.

Pet Supplies Plus in Wilkes-Barre

Searching and Finding Loving Homes for Loving Pets!!



What the **Future** holds



Educational Programs

- Props
- Promotional Items
- Educational Flyers
- Books and Videos
- Story time videos



Clinic Equipment Upgrades



Human Society Police Work

- Purchase a horse trailer
- Build a paddock/barn



Adoption Assistance

- Seniors for Seniors
- Pets for Vets

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.

Thank You

to all supporters, large and small, from each individual to large corporations.



Get Involved! Of Course You Can Adopt

BUT

Be A Part...

How Else Can You Help?



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



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



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



You Tube

**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 and donate aluminum cans
- Host a dress down day
- And many other ways to help our loving animals

2022 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

It was another great year, here are some of our supporters in 2022 and the efforts they made to support us. Without these great sponsors, we would not be able to help the community and the loving animals that need our care.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Subaru of Wyoming Valley – Ed Napelton Automotive Group
A. Rifkin Co.
Elite Spine and Physical Therapy
Focus Forward
PNC Bank
A. Pickett Construction
Jacobi Capital Management



31st Annual Walk for the Animals



7th Annual Purse Bingo



12th Annual Golf Tournament



John Rhys Memorial
Annual Fundraiser

28th Annual
Wyoming
Valley
Motorcycle
Club



2023 SPCA Supporters

Donations over \$10,000

Robert Friedman
Marion Pearsall
Paul D. Wasserott Foundation
Subaru of America

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

Back Mountain Kennel Club
Nicholas P. Chiumento
Jacobi Capital Management
Dianne Kwiatek
Kathy Manganaro
Michael Nolan
Robert & Carol Nygren
Robert Spitz Foundation

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

A. Mary and Ann Gowarty
A. Rifkin Co.
Donna and Don Jones
Martha Kellow
Weis Markets
Wyman Gordon Pennsylvania, LLC

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

ABC Hauling
A Sign of Interest, LLC
Assured Partners of Northeastern PA
Gail Azain
Heather Balester
Beyond Behavior Consulting, LLC
James & Patricia Blazejewski
Boden USA
Edward Brenton
Jason Coates
Patricia Delgaudio
Noelle Drago
Elite Spine & Sports Physical Therapy

Bernis & John Emmett
Gatorade
Hanover Township
Jean Carol Keen
Sharon & Paul Kowalek
Daniel Lantz
Paul & Kathy Lantz
Christine and Randy Lucas
Tammy & Ed Lemelin
Crystal & Mark Meinert
Christine McCaffery
Sandra Morrash
Tara Nicastro
Dorothy Norton
Ocean State Job Lot
Ed Pall
Dave Phillips
Pizza Perfect Inc.
PNC Bank
Thomas Robertson
Carol & Albert Semanek
Arlene Soblewski
Deborra Schauss
Sunbelt Rentals Wilkes Barre
The Bear Creek Cafe
The Lazy Dog Cookie Company
Bonnie Thomas
Mary Ellen Vodzack
Mary Claire Voveris
Mark Warshal
Nina Yuhas-Williams
Wyman Gordan Pennsylvania, LLC

Donations \$500 - \$999

A. Pickett Construction, Inc.
Lori Albrecht
Jeremy & Brooke Allen
George & Joette Anthony
BDD, Michelle Rooney
John Bertucci
Lucian Birochak
Rodney Brown
Barbara Bruno
Brandon Burakiewicz
Christine & Donald Burton
John Cerasaro
Linda Cheatum
Mary Chevitski
Gene Ciccozzi

Donald & Joyce Conyngham
Maryann Cusick
Mary Ann Dankos
Cathy Davies
James Dean
John Derwin
Michael Donnelly
Chris Dudley
Jodi Dunn
Mia Dunn
Adam & Jacklyn Eckels
Lisa English
Deb & Pat Evans
Willard & Margot Everett
Dorothy Finkelstein
Robert & Stephanie Finlay
Donald & Ashley Fiorucci
Mary Ellyn Fogarty
Four Fellas Bar and Grill
Donald E. Franks
Golden Business Machines, Inc.
William Greiner
William & Louise Harrison
Randy & Mary Alice Hockman
Elaine Hoppe
Ice House Pub
Andrea Jones
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Kingston Township Municipality
Charlotte Kitler
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Julia Lewis
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Shawn Myers, 570 Creative
Deana Nat
Nesbitt Family Charitable Found.
Gary Nobel
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Foundation
Ronald & Rosalie Thomas
Richard Turano
Holly & Chris Udzella
Val & Gus Genetti Fund
Deborah Wall
Michelle Waschek
James Wells
Andrea & Dierk Wessel
Karen Yamrus

GRANTS

Avant Publications
Best Friends Animal
Society
Bob Jones Dog Trust
Val & Gus Genetti
Foundation
PetCo Foundation
PetSmart Charities
Edith Reynolds

THANK YOU MONTHLY DONORS!

We are truly blessed to have a dedicated army of monthly donors, some of whom have been donating for decades. We hope that each and every one of you knows how much we appreciate your steadfast support.

Shelters are filled with animals searching
for a loving forever home.

Before you look to buy...

LOOK TO ADOPT!!



Someone to Feed



Someone to Walk



A Treat for All



www.spcaluzernecounty.org

570.825.4111

For more information call:

Todd Hevner, Executive Director, 570-825-4111 x 106

Randy Lucas, Development Director, 570-825-4111 x 113

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Wilkes Barre PA, 18702

*We
Need
Your Support
& Love*

