



Caring for Animals Since 1883



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SPCAWESTCHESTER.ORG

2023 Impact Report



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO, SHANNON LAUKHUF

Dear SPCA Friends & Family,

I'm thrilled to share the SPCA's first ever Impact Report highlighting our 2023 accomplishments and your generous contributions at work. While each day brings new challenges, our team happily celebrated another successful year of saving lives. And, we recently commemorated the SPCA's second anniversary in our new Rescue Center, made possible through your unwavering commitment and compassion for helping animals in need.



Like many animal welfare organizations across the nation, the SPCA encountered its fair share of challenges in 2023. Despite experiencing a surge in adoptions during the pandemic, we are currently witnessing a decline, resulting in a pressing shelter capacity crisis. While our beloved residents' length of stay is subsequently longer at the Rescue Center, your invaluable contributions ensure they continue to receive unparalleled care as they patiently await adoption into loving homes.

Last year also marked the SPCA's largest rescue in our 140-year history when our Humane Law Enforcement Unit saved more than 151 cats from a horrific hoarding situation in Yorktown Heights. The cats' extensive medical needs were overwhelming and thanks to the efforts of our team, nearly every feline from this tragic case has now been adopted. Rescues like this would never be possible without our loyal donors and volunteers, and the dedication of our board and staff.

Together, we give hope to the hopeless and a voice to the voiceless. Thank you again for being a hero to the SPCA animals and we look forward to an even bigger and better 2024!

Shannon Laukhuf, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer

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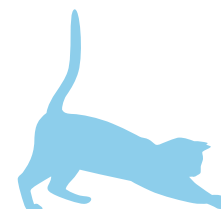
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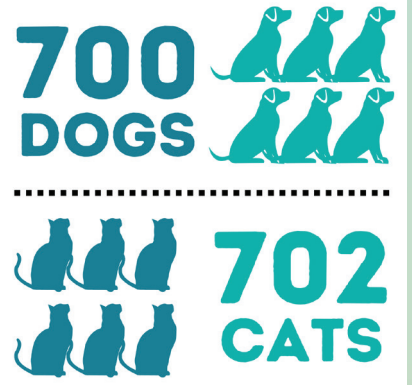
Follow us on social media at @spcawestchester to keep up with our latest news



A 501(c)3 non-profit no-kill animal welfare organization

SAVING LIVES – RESCUE & ADOPTION

At the core of our mission is helping Westchester’s dogs and cats who have been abandoned or mistreated as well as saving animals from high-risk shelters, offering a lifeline to those with little chance of survival without our intervention. Upon arrival at the SPCA’s Rescue Center, many of these dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens are in dire need of medical attention and have never known the warmth and love of a family. Our animal care team does whatever it takes to help heal every animal and to provide them with the encouragement and guidance needed to succeed in a forever home.



TOTAL ANIMALS ADOPTED: 1,402

TAILS OF RESILIENCE

LOKI, a beautiful Havanese mix, was abandoned on the streets of Ossining with some of the worst injuries we had ever seen: more than 30% of his skin was dead and burnt off, causing an extremely painful and life-threatening infection. This poor dog had been neglected for so long that his chances of survival were slim. The SPCA’s veterinary team performed emergency skin grafting surgery on Loki which was made possible thanks to your kind contributions.



While it was touch and go for the first few weeks, Loki made a remarkable recovery. He was recently adopted and is now the apple of his parents’ eyes and a treasured part of their family.



SPRINKLES clearly had a rough start in life. This scared and vulnerable 3-legged pup was found wandering alone and had managed to survive for weeks on scraps of food. Fortunately, a Good Samaritan gained her trust and was able to gently coax her into their fenced yard.

When Sprinkles arrived at the SPCA she was suffering with severe skin and ear infections and when we bathed this beautiful white dog, the tub water instantly turned black as the many layers of dirt washed away. It’s remarkable how sweet she was even though she had every reason to be fearful of humans. Sprinkle’s beaming smile with her new mom speaks to the transformative power of love.

PROTECTING WESTCHESTER'S ANIMALS

HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The SPCA's Humane Law Enforcement Unit (HLE) is the only agency authorized by New York State to enforce animal cruelty laws in Westchester County. Our officers investigate complaints of abuse, make arrests and seize animals who have experienced unforgivable cruelty. Despite the critical work of our HLE Unit in keeping our community's animals safe, we do not receive any county or federal funding. Your support for this lifesaving program is vital, ensuring our beloved companion animals are treated with kindness and respect.



In February 2023, the SPCA's HLE Unit seized 151 sick cats after they were discovered living in deplorable conditions inside a hoarding house in Yorktown Heights along with their deceased owners. Rushed back to the SPCA for urgent medical care, these poor neglected felines faced a myriad of ailments, including upper respiratory, eye, and skin infections, as well as malnutrition and dehydration. Sadly, some required immediate surgical intervention for more severe injuries. By the end of 2023, we found loving, new homes for all but seven of the cats who are still patiently awaiting adoption. This extraordinary rescue would never have been possible without your support.



One of the many cats from this horrific case whose living 'happily ever after' with a loving family is Chowder, along with his feline friends Vivi and Paprika. They now spend their days adventuring around Cornell's Hardware Store in Eastchester. Chowder is thriving on the undivided attention that he receives from the staff and customers. We couldn't be happier for this trio!



NEW BEGINNINGS

After receiving an urgent call on the SPCA's Confidential Cruelty Hotline, our HLE Unit discovered 11 dogs crammed together in tiny, filthy cages in a parked van in Cortlandt Manor. Officers immediately seized these victims of neglect and rushed them to our Cody's Clinic for urgent medical attention. All of the dogs were covered in urine and feces and were experiencing muscle atrophy after languishing in crates. Many were also suffering with painful sores underneath their dirty, matted fur. After receiving treatment from the SPCA's veterinary team and lots of TLC, these resilient dogs went on to be adopted.



Shyest of the group, Caterina, is now a happy-go lucky pup enjoying life with her forever family.

FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH



When the SPCA's Humane Law Enforcement Unit received an urgent tip through our hotline regarding a malnourished dog living in a Mount Vernon apartment, our officers were unprepared for the heartbreaking sight that awaited them. Striker, a gentle pit bull, teetered on the edge of starvation having been neglected for months and shockingly 30 lbs. underweight. His frail body was so feeble that he could barely muster a few steps before collapsing in exhaustion. We will never understand how anyone could be so heartless and cruel. Fortunately, the swift actions of the SPCA's HLE Unit saved Striker from near death and our officers arrested his owner for acts of unforgivable animal cruelty. Striker is unrecognizable today with his new mom and dad who absolutely adore him.

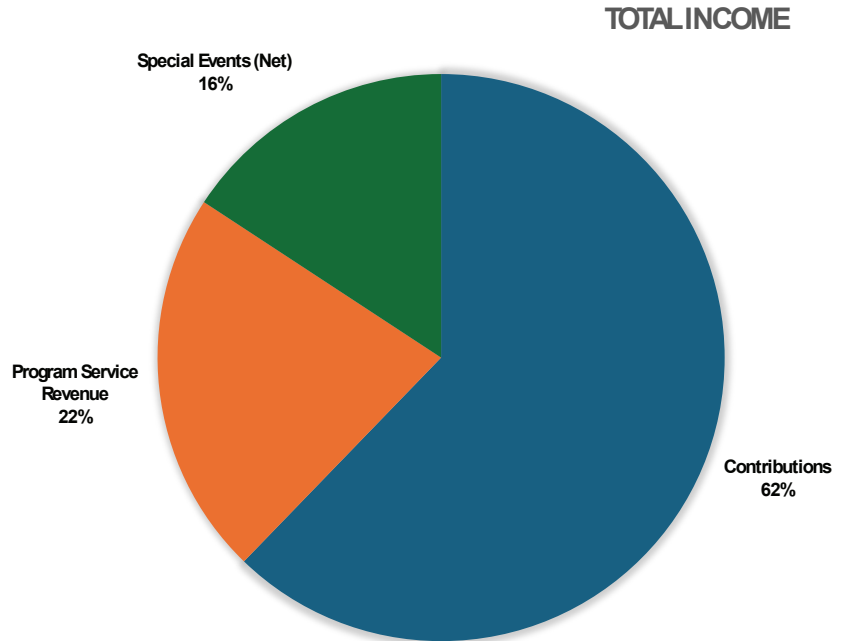
FINANCIALS

SPCA Westchester supports more than 5,500 needy animals every year. We are not affiliated with any national animal welfare organizations and rely on the generosity of individuals, foundations and corporations to make our lifesaving work possible.

INCOME

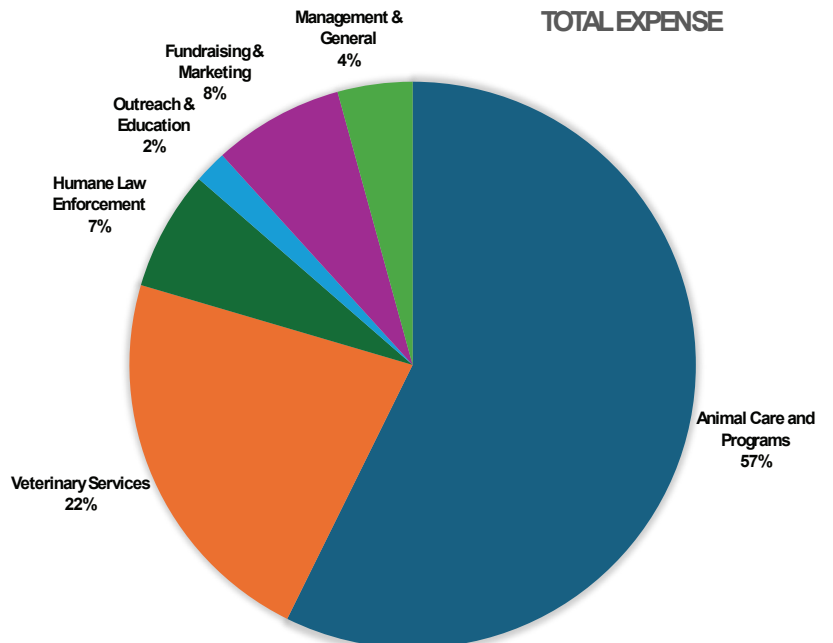
Contributions	\$3,030,519
Program Services Revenue	\$1,071,357
Special Events	\$767,555
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,869,431

**Excluding one-time bequests and investments income (loss) net of fees*



EXPENSES

Animal Care and Programs	\$2,529,553
Veterinary Services	\$982,261
Humane Law Enforcement	\$302,048
Outreach & Education	\$85,524
Fundraising & Marketing	\$329,415
Management & General	\$188,699
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,414,518



944 public
PETS
were
spayed/
neutered

2,089
COMPANION
ANIMALS
RECEIVED
WELLNESS CARE

597
RECEIVED
FERAL CATS
TNR SERVICES
(TRAP/NEUTER/RETURN)

CODY'S CLINIC

As the only low-cost veterinary clinic operating in Westchester County, Cody's Clinic plays a critical role in providing residents and their animals with essential care including spay/neuter surgeries, wellness examinations, vaccines, microchipping and disease testing. By offering affordable care, we help to limit the number of animals surrendered to shelters due to financial reasons, enabling companion dogs and cats to remain with their loving pet parents.

RAISIN – FROM RESCUE TO RECOVERY


Raisin weighed a mere pound when she was rushed into our Cody's Clinic by a Good Samaritan. This sweet kitten was somehow separated from her mom and siblings and was suffering with an injury to her right front paw that had become necrotic. Raisin required extensive treatment which she was able to receive thanks to our kind supporters. And, according to her family, Raisin loves playing and does not let her previous injury slow her down.

FRIENDS OF FERALS – HELPING COMMUNITY CATS IN NEED

Thanks to a generous grant, the SPCA was able to launch the *Friends of Ferals* Program. Our Cody's Clinic is now able to offer limited free Trap/Neuter/Return services to the city of Yonkers. By providing this service at no cost, residents can help to reduce the number of community cats needlessly suffering outdoors through spay/neuter, and ultimately preventing future litters of homeless kittens from being born.





126 
FOSTER FAMILIES

 **338**
DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS


17,881
HOURS OF SERVICE ANNUALLY

Unwavering Support

VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER FAMILIES

Volunteers are the heart of the SPCA's work. They selflessly perform daily tasks like walking and training our rescue dogs, socializing cats, and fostering animals who need extra TLC. There are a myriad of other "jobs" volunteers assist with from guiding prospective adopters through the adoption process to providing administrative assistance to the staff...the list never ends. Their tireless efforts and dedication inspire us and we truly could not fulfill our mission without their help.



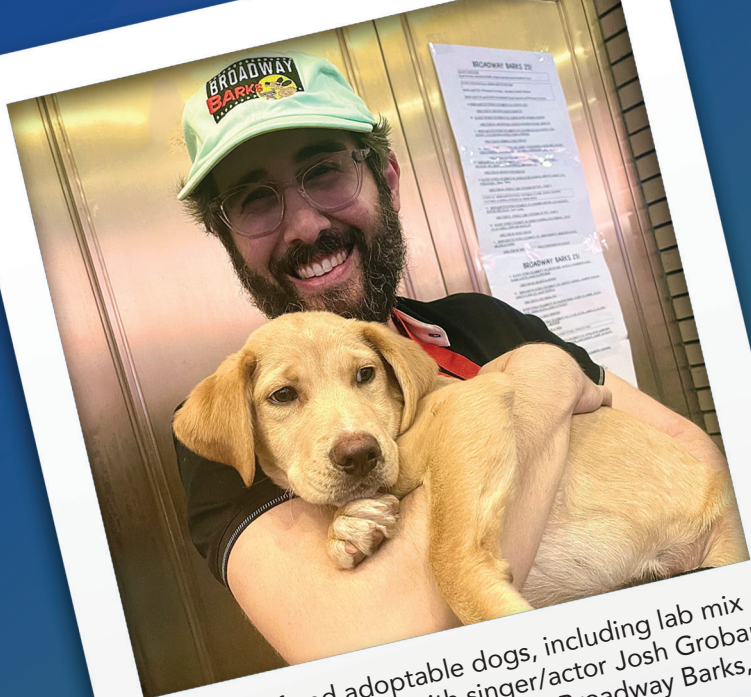
The Next Generation of Animal Advocates

HUMANE EDUCATION

Teaching children how to properly treat animals is crucial to imparting compassion on future generations. Through the SPCA's Humane Education program, young people learn about proper dog and cat care, what to do if they witness animal cruelty, breed stereotyping, and the importance of rescue and adoption. Hundreds of children are reached through this important initiative through visits to our Rescue Center and presentations at schools throughout Westchester County.

Our Rising Volunteers program provides opportunities for children ages 10 through 17 to engage with dogs and cats while learning valuable skills. Activities such as reading to animals and making enrichment toys and treats are just a few of the ways young animal advocates can support the SPCA. Children can even celebrate their birthday along with friends and family at our Rescue Center —what's better than cake, cute puppies and kittens?! And back by popular demand is Camp Critter, which is being relaunched in 2024.





SPCA staff and adoptable dogs, including lab mix Side Salad, pictured with singer/actor Josh Groban, joined theatre artists and fans at Broadway Barks, an annual pet adoption event, in Shubert Alley.



Some of our adorable rescue pups became stars on Live with Kelly and Mark. Pictured are Gracie and Ravioli with Broadway legend Bernadette Peters, and co-hosts Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos.



Cuddle therapy is the best type of medicine! Phoebe is one of many SPCA pups who visited Northern Westchester Hospital of Northwell Health to provide stress relief and snuggles with the doctors, nurses and support staff.

SPCA IN THE COMMUNITY



Little Bit and Blaze joined Shannon Laukhuf at the EQUUS Foundation's Hoof n' Woof Jumping Derby. We love partnering with organizations who share a passion for rescue and want to work together to expand our missions.



SPCA alum, Betty Boop, was selected by Putnam Service Dogs to participate in their impressive training program. Up for the challenge, Betty Boop completed two years of rigorous training and was matched with her person. As you can see, they have formed an unbreakable bond!

2023 marks SPCA Westchester's 140th anniversary, a milestone that celebrates a legacy of compassion and dedication to animal welfare. Our journey began in 1883, when Mary Dusenberry, an Ossining resident, founded the Sing Sing branch of the SPCA. Disturbed by the harsh treatment of the Ossining draft horses, which were forced to deliver heavy loads of coal under inhumane conditions, Mary and her like-minded friends took action. They secured land in Briarcliff Manor and established a fund dedicated to preventing cruelty to all animals.

Over the years, the SPCA has evolved, changing names and leadership, rebuilding, and expanding, yet our core values have remained steadfast. We hope that if Mrs. Dusenberry could see the SPCA today, she would be proud of the profound impact she initiated 140 years ago.



Executive Director Henry Sharrock and a member of law enforcement handle an Ossining stray in the 1970's.



Lion Bites Tamer, Tamer Hits Lion, Now Police Want Him

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Agent Seeks Arrest of Tamer
Hurt on Friday

A wild 1927 headline proving the SPCA's commitment to all creatures, big and small!

Celebrating 140 YEARS of Animal Rescue



JANUARY 11, 1965
Westchester Today!

A 1965 newspaper clipping highlighting the SPCA adoption process.

Briarcliff SPCA: It's Puppy Love

Who wants a puppy? Who, in fact, can resist a puppy? Or a wobbly little kitten, teetering precariously on uncooperative legs?

The Briarcliff SPCA can't. It now houses approximately 125 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in a wide variety of styles and colors all ready to be adopted into some family where animals are loved and cared for.

Some of the SPCA's animals are housed in an ingenious, if temporary, manner with certain individual pretensions. An old school bus, remodelled, now contains eight small and five large cages where a number of smaller animals are sheltered while the new building is in the process of construction.

Since the SPCA operates entirely on donations and the small fees charged for animals, with no subsidy whatsoever, it has taken a while to collect funds for the much-needed building, and more funds are needed. The old structure was condemned as it was no longer possible to keep sanitary.

The school bus has proved to be a satisfactory stopgap measure, although it is expensive to heat with the small portable electric heaters in use. Temperature remains at about 70 degrees while the door is shut.

Henry Sharrock, business manager, is enthusiastic about the fiber glass cages in the bus which will be moved into the new building when it is completed. They are easy to clean, and are washed with disinfectant every day. Animals are put back in the same cages so that if one should be contracting any disease the germs would be isolated to some extent. The cages are also easily moved and rearranged.

Mr. Sharrock's conversation in the bus is at present subject to constant interruptions, all due to one very small kitten with the lion.

"He just wants to see my small kitten with the lion," Mr. Sharrock says. "He just wants to see my small kitten with the lion."

The questionnaire is detailed both for the protection and well-being of the animals as well as the satisfaction of their future owners. Age, health and general



description, are, of course, included. Among other questions asked are, Where did you get him? Has he been inoculated? Has he ever bitten anyone? Is he a watchdog? Does he get along with other dogs? With cats? With children? The information is used to place the animal in the best possible situation for him.

A quonset hut, old but still usable, houses a number of the larger dogs. The cages have a

labeled and provided with straw on the floor for further warmth. The cages may go in and out as they please and are equipped with least discs.

The foster have provided an unusual form of entertainment for some of the dogs. Mr. Sharrock reports some of the changes found it must be the female of

IN SEARCH of a puppy are Kathy and John Bonomi, 9 and 5, children of Mr. and Mrs. John Bonomi of 121 Deertrack Lane, Carytown. Henry Sharrock, business manager of the Briarcliff SPCA, looks on as the youngsters visit the remodeled school bus which houses some of the SPCA's four-footed friends — Staff Photo by John Siegel.

Adoption plans include the placement of many of these. Individual SPCA's are run on a purely local basis, Mr. Sharrock explains, receiving no support from the national organization, except where a concerted effort is indicated in such areas as opposing or encouraging a

A glimpse of life in early 1900's Ossining.



** Special thanks and photo credit to Geoff Tischman for many of the photos in this report*

Thank You for Your Support