

YORK COUNTY SPCA

PET GAZETTE

SPRING EDITION

EXPLORE OUR
2024 IMPACT DATA

CATS FOR HIRE
MORE ABOUT OUR
WORKING CAT PROGRAM

**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER WEEK**



SAVE THE DATE
GIVE LOCAL YORK
IS COMING MAY 1 & 2

 **SPCA**
of York County
A New Leash on Life

**MAKE A DOG'S DAY THROUGH OUR
DOGS' DAY OUT PROGRAM**
PRESENTED BY EXPLORE YORK

YORK COUNTY SPCA

IMPACT



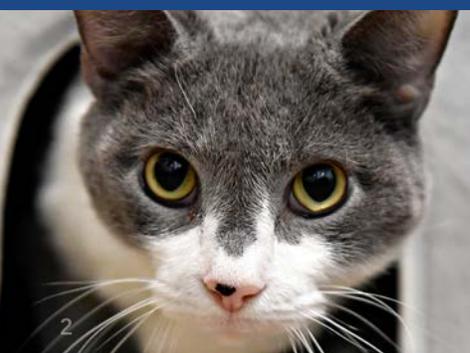
For nearly 100 years, the **York County SPCA** has been a lifeline for families in need, ensuring the safety and well-being of thousands of animals and the people who love them. We are the only animal shelter housing all the county's abandoned and displaced pets.

We provide critical services—including humane law enforcement, high-volume spay/neuter, adoption, and animal education—making our communities safer and healthier for people and animals. **And none of it would be possible without you.**



“These numbers represent lives saved and transformed—animals given second chances, families made whole, and communities kept safe”.

STEVEN MARTINEZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
YORK COUNTY SPCA



THANKS TO OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORTERS, 2024 WAS A LIFESAVING YEAR:



SAVE
RATE



2,743 
ANIMALS SHELTERED
AND CARED FOR

1,922  PETS PLACED INTO
LOVING HOMES

362 
LOST PETS REUNITED
WITH THEIR OWNERS

18,867 
LOW-COST
SPAY/NEUTER
SURGERIES PERFORMED, REDUCING
PET OVERPOPULATION

47,183 lbs.  FOOD DISTRIBUTED THROUGH
PET FOOD PANTRY

 503 CRUELTY & NEGLECT CASES INVESTIGATED
THROUGH OUR HUMANE SOCIETY POLICE OFFICER

While we provide essential public health and safety services, **nearly 75% of our funding comes from private donations.** Without continued support, animals in crisis would have nowhere to go, and the critical services we provide would be at risk. Without our services, loose dogs and cats would roam our communities, dog bites and animal-related attacks would escalate, zoonotic diseases like Rabies would spread unchecked, and animal population growth rates would soar.



As we look ahead to 2025, we invite you to explore the full impact of your generosity in our **2024 Impact Report and Video** at www.ycspca.org/impact, or via this QR code.

Your past support has been invaluable, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you. Your commitment changes lives, and we are so grateful to have you by our side as we create a better future for people and pets in York County. 🐾

Steven Martinez
Executive Director, York County SPCA



FROM BROKEN TO WHOLE: HAMMY'S JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE



DR. NATALIE WEEKES, VMD, SHELTER MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Right before Thanksgiving 2024, a tiny, three-month-old Australian Shepherd puppy arrived at our shelter, lost and alone. Though his spirit was bright, his body told a different story. His two front legs had been shaved as if he had recently been seen by a veterinarian, but no owner came forward. Most concerning of all, Hammy wasn't using his left hind leg. X-rays revealed a heartbreaking reality: both his tibia and fibula were fractured.

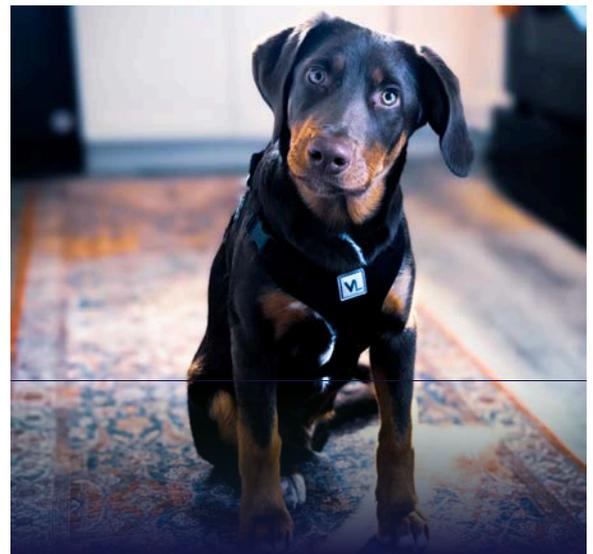
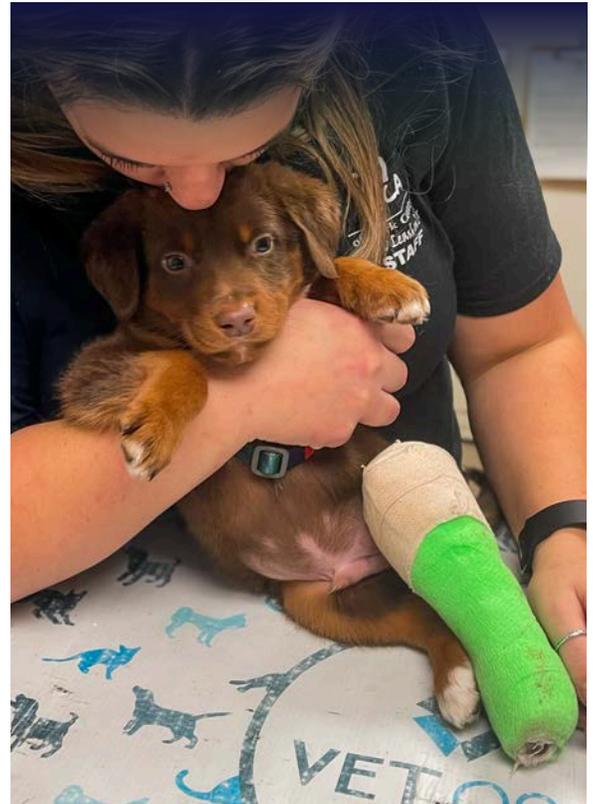
Our team moved quickly to keep Hammy comfortable, providing pain medication and stabilizing his leg with a splint. We consulted an orthopedic surgeon, hoping for a way to repair the break, but the prognosis was not in Hammy's favor. The injury was too severe for a full recovery, and the best path forward was amputation. It was a difficult decision, but we knew that with the right care, Hammy could still lead a happy, active life.

Thanks to the generosity of our community and donations to our **Second Chance Fund**, we were able to perform the surgery at our shelter. Hammy amazed us all with his resilience. Within days of his amputation, his playful personality began to shine again. He quickly adapted, never letting his missing leg slow him down.

Hammy's story doesn't end there. He was placed with a foster family to recover in a loving home environment, and it wasn't long before his foster mom realized she couldn't imagine life without him. Hammy, now Arlo, had found his forever family, and he will never have to worry about being alone again.

Arlo's journey from stray to beloved pet was made possible because of you—our community. Your support of our **Second Chance Fund** allows us to go above and beyond for animals in need, ensuring that injuries and medical challenges don't stand in the way of a happy life. Because of your kindness, animals like Arlo receive the care they deserve and find families who will cherish them forever.

There are countless other animals just like Arlo who need a second chance. If you'd like to help, consider donating to our **Second Chance Fund**. Every dollar makes a difference in providing life-saving medical treatment and rehabilitation. Together, we can continue to turn stories of hardship into tales of hope. 🐾



THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR MISSION TO GIVE ANIMALS LIKE HAMMY THE FUTURE THEY DESERVE!

RABIES VIRUS AND VACCINATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

CLINIC
CORNER

DR. KIMBERLY MANN, VMD, CLINIC MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Rabies virus is a prevalent concern in both the domestic and wildlife animal population of Pennsylvania. Rabies is a fatal virus that affects the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) and can infect any mammal. Because there is no effective treatment for Rabies, prevention of the disease with vaccination is extremely important.

Rabies virus is spread via the saliva of an infected animal. Most often, this is through a bite wound that breaks skin, although there have been cases reported involving scratches by an infected animal, saliva entering an open wound, and contact between saliva or brain tissue and the eyes, nose, or mouth of another animal or person. Infected animals may or may not be showing the classic signs of Rabies at the time of a bite but are still able to transmit the virus.

Classic signs of Rabies virus include aggression, loss of fear, daytime activity by a nocturnal species, excessive vocalization, dilated pupils, difficulty swallowing, loss of appetite, restlessness, biting at objects or other animals, and drooling/foaming at the mouth. Other neurologic signs include incoordination, hind limb weakness, dull mentation, and paralysis.

The most common species to contract Rabies in Pennsylvania are raccoons, skunks, cats, foxes, and bats, though any mammal may be infected. To prevent injury and possible spread of disease, it is recommended that only experienced professionals handle wildlife. This is especially important if the animal appears sick or injured.

Each year in Pennsylvania, there are hundreds of Rabies cases diagnosed in our animal populations. Pennsylvania is third in the country for number of individual Rabies cases, falling behind only Texas and Virginia. Since 1986, the state of Pennsylvania has required that all dogs and cats be vaccinated for Rabies between 12-16 weeks of age. This vaccine must then be boosted every 1-3 years thereafter for the animal's entire life.



Vaccination is excellent at preventing Rabies infection and has a low risk of side effects. If your pet is exposed to a rabid or suspected rabid animal, having them up to date on their Rabies vaccination also decreases the amount of time your pet must be kept under quarantine in your home following exposure.

Due to PA state Rabies law, all animals that come through the **York County SPCA** must be kept up to date on their Rabies vaccination. This includes all animals in the shelter, all owned cats and dogs that come through the spay/neuter clinic, as well as any cats that come through the clinic's Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. Rabies vaccines are available for \$25 through the spay/neuter clinic at the time of your pet's surgery. Cats coming through the TNR program will also receive a Rabies vaccine at the time of surgery, the cost of which is included in the \$25 TNR fee. After your pet's initial one year vaccine, if you provide proof that the vaccine has not expired at the next booster, the next vaccine lasts for three years. If your pet's Rabies vaccine is overdue, the booster given will last for one year.

Although Rabies virus is prevalent in our animal population, it is easily preventable through the use of routine vaccination. We encourage you to speak with our staff or your primary care veterinarian if you have further questions about Rabies in Pennsylvania. To learn more about our spay/neuter clinic, visit www.ycspca.org/spay-neuter-clinic.

SAVE THE DATE

GIVE LOCAL YORK IS MAY 1 & 2, 2025

**GIVE LOCAL YORK: EVERY GIFT MAKES
A DIFFERENCE FOR THE ANIMALS!**

Give Local York is more than just a day of giving, it's a community-wide celebration of generosity! For 24 hours, thousands of people come together to support the causes closest to their hearts, making an incredible impact across York County. **This year's event kicks off at 9:00 PM on May 1st and runs until 9:00 PM on May 2nd.**

For the **York County SPCA**, these 24 hours represent a crucial opportunity to fund lifesaving programs and provide medical care, shelter, and second chances for animals in need.

**YOU DON'T HAVE
TO WAIT UNTIL
MAY 1 TO MAKE
AN IMPACT!**

INCLUDE 'GIVE LOCAL YORK'
IN THE MEMO LINE OF YOUR
CHECK TO HAVE IT
COUNTED TOWARD OUR
FUNDRAISING TOTAL!



WHY GIVE DURING GIVE LOCAL YORK?

Every gift helps unlock additional funding through Give Local York's stretch pool. The more unique donors we have, the more funds we receive. **Every single gift, whether it's \$5 or \$500, truly makes an impact.**

Last year, thanks to your support, we had the most individual donors of any participating nonprofit. With your help, we can do it again!

**If you have questions or need any help in
making your gift, please contact:**

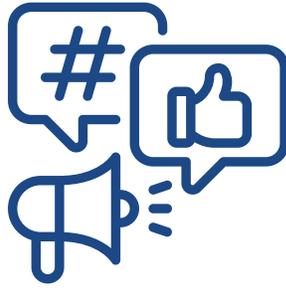


Jessica Hoffman,
Philanthropic Advisor
717-764-6109 ext. 221
jhoffman@ycspca.org



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**DONATE EARLY
(INCLUDE "GIVE LOCAL
YORK" IN THE MEMO
OF YOUR CHECK!)**



**GIVE ON MAY 1ST & 2ND
AT GIVELOCALYORK.ORG**

**SPREAD THE WORD
ON SOCIAL MEDIA
@YORKCOUNTYSPCA
@GIVELOCALYORK**

**BE A FUNDRAISING CHAMPION—
RALLY SUPPORT TO MAKE AN
EVEN BIGGER IMPACT!**

IT'S PAW'TY TIME! FRIDAY, MAY 2 FROM 5 - 8 P.M.

Join us on Friday, May 2 for a PAW'ty at the York County SPCA! Visit us at the Brouger Companion Animal shelter from **5 - 8 p.m.** on Give Day to celebrate this tremendous day of generosity. Activities for the whole family including food trucks, face painting, adopt-a-plushie and more!"

More details will be posted about the event at www.ycspca.org/givelocalyork

YORK COUNTY SPCA
3159 SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL N. YORK, PA 17406



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND GET
READY TO MAKE THIS THE
BEST GIVE LOCAL YORK YET!**

**GIVE
» LOCAL
York**



**EVERY DONOR COUNTS
—WILL YOU BE ONE
OF THEM?**

**MAY
1 & 2!**



WHISKERS AT WORK: HOW OUTDOOR CATS EARN THEIR KEEP



**RACHEL DIAZ, FELINE FOSTER
AND RESCUE COORDINATOR**



Cats leave their mark on our lives in many ways, whether as beloved pets, strays we care for, or soul companions. But what about cats that don't fit the mold of a house pet or a lifelong stray? Sick or injured strays that recover in shelters but can't return outdoors—and aren't suited for indoor life—often have nowhere to go. That's where our Working Cat program comes in.

In 2021, the **York County SPCA** analyzed our cat intake data to find ways to save more lives. We identified two key areas for improvement: bottle baby kittens and community cats that couldn't return to their original outdoor homes. While we revamped our foster program to give bottle babies a better chance, we also focused on the community cats stuck in limbo.

These cats entered the shelter as sick or injured strays and were nursed back to health but couldn't safely return to their outdoor homes. If friendly, they were placed for adoption—but those not suited for domestic life had nowhere to go. Our past attempts at a Working Cat program didn't gain enough traction, but with the right team this time, we were determined to make it work.

Our program provides a lifesaving alternative by placing these cats in barns, warehouses, and shops where they can live safely outdoors with human care. Working cat adopters commit to providing food, water, and shelter while benefiting from natural rodent control. Before adoption, each cat is spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and ear-tipped—a universal sign for fixed outdoor cats. While there's no adoption fee, donations help cover the cost of their care.

In 2024, we successfully placed 61 cats through our Working Cat program, giving them safe spaces to thrive on their terms. While they may never be lap cats, they deserve the same chance at life. 🐾

To learn more about our Working Cat program, please visit www.ycspca.org/adoptable-pets/working-cats



A BREAK THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

For a shelter dog, a simple break from the kennel can make all the difference. At the York County SPCA, our Dogs' Day Out program presented by ExploreYork is transforming shelter dogs' lives, offering them a much-needed break, providing valuable behavioral insights, and increasing their chances of adoption. But the benefits extend beyond the dogs—this program strengthens our community connection and creates meaningful experiences for participants.



**STEVEN HALSTEAD,
CANINE FOSTER AND
RESCUE COORDINATOR**

Our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to keep dogs comfortable, enriched and exercised. While playgroups and walks help, nothing compares to the mental and emotional relief of a few hours outside the shelter. Kennel stress is well-documented, often leading to pacing, anxiety, and other negative behaviors. Research shows that short-term fostering or day trips significantly reduce stress, making dogs more adoptable.

With Dogs' Day Out, our pups experience real-world situations, car rides, public spaces, and new environments—helping us understand their personalities better. In just a few hours, fosters often learn more than we might in a month at the shelter. Are they good with strangers? Do they enjoy car rides? Are they confident in new settings? These insights are invaluable for finding the right home.

The impact is clear. About 1 in 10 dogs who participate transition into short- or long-term foster care, often bridging them to adoption. Even more exciting, 1 in 20 dogs are directly adopted through this program, finding their perfect match thanks to increased exposure.

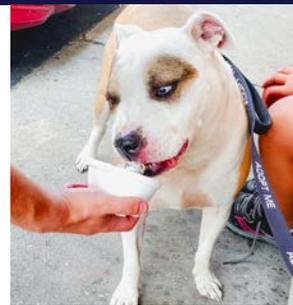


Beyond benefiting the dogs, Dogs' Day Out fosters stronger community engagement. When people take shelter dogs out, they become advocates—sharing their experiences on social media, sparking conversations, and helping change perceptions of shelter pets. These outings also promote adoption and responsible pet ownership. Local businesses, parks, and neighborhoods welcome these dogs, creating a ripple effect that benefits everyone.

Feedback from fosters is overwhelmingly positive. Many share stories of dogs who started the day anxious but ended it happily curled up in the backseat. Others recall joyful moments—watching a pup enjoy a puppuccino, confidently stroll through a park, or roll in the grass for the first time.

Dogs' Day Out is more than a break—it's a step toward a forever home. Whether for a few hours or an afternoon, these outings provide comfort, socialization, life-saving information, and, of course, adorable pictures. They also bring people together, reinforcing the bond between our shelter, animals, and the community we serve.

Learn more about our Dogs' Day Out Program at www.ycspca.org/events/dogs-day-out.



RECOGNIZING OUR HEROES FOR NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

ALY MALAY, VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



At the **York County SPCA**, we are incredibly grateful for our volunteers! **In 2024, 443 volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours - that is the equivalent of 7.5 full-time staff members!** Their dedication helps keep the shelter running, enriches the lives of our animals, and provides lifesaving care.

As National Volunteer Week (April 20-26) approaches, we invite you to celebrate our volunteers!

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- **Thank a volunteer** for their time and effort.
- **Donate** in honor of our hardworking volunteers.
- **Spread the word** about the need for more volunteers— We are always looking for new volunteers to support the pets and animals in our care. Right now, we have a particular need for dog walking, canine enrichment and clinic volunteers.

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE CRITICAL SUPPORT THEY PROVIDE TO OUR ORGANIZATION!



"For almost 2 years now, I have been coming into the shelter weekly to give as many dogs as possible some fun, attention, and love by hiding treats in a ball pit or preparing lick mats. Their wagging tails show you how much they love and appreciate it all! It really makes my day and hopefully theirs too! **Volunteering is so important for all the animals in the care of the YCSPCA until they find their forever homes.**"

- DANITA, CANINE ENRICHMENT VOLUNTEER)

"While volunteering, I found how rewarding it is to help the animals. The dogs get so excited to be able to go for a walk or get a belly rub. It's rewarding to see the cats warm up to you when they realize you are a friend. I've also fostered guinea pigs, which became a family project. I love to watch the adopters when they find the companion they were looking for and see animals react to their new family. The YCSPCA team and volunteers are a committed, caring group of people. The animals are spoiled because the team knows the animals deserve it.

Volunteering is the most rewarding choice I have made."

- TEENA (CLINIC VOLUNTEER)



"The thing I enjoy most about dog walking is being able to have a positive impact on shelter dogs. Even though there may be a lot of dogs in the kennel, making a difference in at least one dog's day is a very heartwarming and fulfilling experience.

As a volunteer dog walker, taking dogs on the trails or into a play yard gives us both the opportunity to bond and enjoy our time outside. **Many of the dogs adore the companionship- and their happiness is pretty contagious!"**

- MASON (DOG WALKER)



If you or someone you know wants to volunteer, apply today! Every hour spent with our animals makes a difference. Learn more at www.ycspca.org/volunteer.

YCSPCA ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Have an update to share? Scan the QR code!



"Skyler is the sweetest boy ever. He was one of the dogs that I took out for a DDO which ended up at the end of the day being a dog that I took home to Foster. Three days later, I decided he was a part of our family and there was no way I could let him go, so I adopted him. He gets along wonderfully with my other two dogs and is the most loving, loyal, gentle boy. He LOVES car rides and to go for walks. I will be forever grateful that our paths crossed and he became a huge part of my heart."

- LINDSAY



"Mango, affectionately known as Papa Mang has been the best addition to our home! He is unique in all the orange cat ways. He plays fetch and will return the ball to your hand! He loves exploring the backyard and rolling in the grass. He is also the greatest Papa to our younger two cats and any foster kitten we bring into our home."

- REBECCA



"Muffin (formerly Bethany) has been the greatest addition to our home. She has the quirkiest personality and endless energy. She's brought so much love and happiness into our lives. We are forever grateful to have adopted her."

- ELIZABETH



"We adopted Archie 2 years ago! He has been the perfect addition to our crew and we just love spoiling him!! He has probably gained 40lbs from all of his new mom's cooking and leftovers. Pictured is him coming out of his house and with his best girl Penelope the goat."

- KENDRA



"McConaughey loves to run around and play in his tunnels and even has a teepee he loves to do zoomies in. He hangs out with 2 dogs and loves to get pets. Runs back and forth when it's time to eat and thinks every snack is for him. He is very loved."

- TRACY



"The dynamic duo Ollie and Bingo have really made their mark in our home and hearts. They are settling in very well. They love their big family of four legged and two legged members. They snuggle in bed all together and make it nice and cozy. They love walks but are still skeptical of new dogs and people. That is slowly changing the longer they are here! Our home would NOT be the same without these babies."

- ALLISON



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