

# Shelter SCENES

**spca**  
cincinnati

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**Meet Little Annie!**

A small dog survives big obstacles . . .

*Read more about Annie's story inside*



## Annie's Story

Annie is a 12 lb. Pomeranian mixed-breed pup. With big beautiful eyes and a button nose, she captivates you with her innocence. When Annie arrived at the **SPCA Cincinnati**, she had endured the worst! After being hit by a car, Annie was viciously attacked by a big dog, all within 24 hours. A hopeless future was looming.

Annie's condition was indeed critical. Much of her back skin had been torn from her body in the attack. Her owner, unfortunately, had to surrender Annie into the **SPCA Cincinnati's** care for immediate medical treatment.

Dr. Jennifer Smith, the **SPCA Cincinnati's** VP of Medical Services, designed a comprehensive plan to heal Annie's wounds and generate new skin! "We did what's called a punched skin graft, a process where you take small circles of healthy skin from other areas of the back and put them throughout the abrasion," says Dr. Smith. "The intent is to allow the healthy skin to grow and spread, speeding the healing time."

It worked! After two months of specialized care in the **SPCA Cincinnati's** medical wing and recovery spent in a foster home, Annie walked away bandage-free with no infection or debilitating pain. Annie proved just how resilient she is; she has amazed us all!

The **SPCA Cincinnati** is thankful for her adopter, who happens to be Annie's foster and a volunteer at our shelter. "She brings joy to my heart," says Cheryl Sprague. As does Annie for us! Your monetary support enables our shelter to save lives like little Annie's.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friend of Animals,

The **SPCA Cincinnati** is Cincinnati's hometown animal shelter and has been since 1873. Originally founded as the Ohio Humane Society, the **SPCA Cincinnati** is the first animal-advocate organization of its kind in the state of Ohio. This year marks 150 years of service and dedication to our lifesaving mission. We look forward to announcing our anniversary calendar of events which will celebrate our past accomplishments and forecast our future at the top of next year! We look forward to disclosing more about how we will be celebrating our 150th Anniversary in the weeks to come.

Speaking of "firsts," the **SPCA Cincinnati's** Chow Now Pantry is within that category. The public health crisis of 2020 placed financial strain on many families, making access to pet food a challenge. The **SPCA Cincinnati** heard the call to action and immediately sought to fill in the gap for pet parents in need. The Chow Now Pantry has now become a permanent part of our operations and will continue for as long as there is an opportunity to serve.

In 2022, the **SPCA Cincinnati** uncovered more success than ever with its Chow Now Pantry program! By end of summer alone, our shelter distributed over 33K pounds of pet food! Part of the success comes by way of wonderful partnerships that allow us to expand our reach within the community: Tikkun Farm, St. Vincent De Paul, Freestore Foodbank and the VA Medical Center of Cincinnati. Our goal? To keep people and pets together! Pets give hope and the comfort that everyone deserves, especially in challenging times. The Chow Now Pantry helps to make our goals possible, providing essential resources to keep pets healthy and at home.

Thanks to you — our **Shelter2Shelter** program also has continued to be incredibly impactful! Last year, the **SPCA Cincinnati** transferred more than 1,200 adoptable pets from shelters near and far that have high euthanasia rates and/or limited resources. Together, we're truly saving lives.

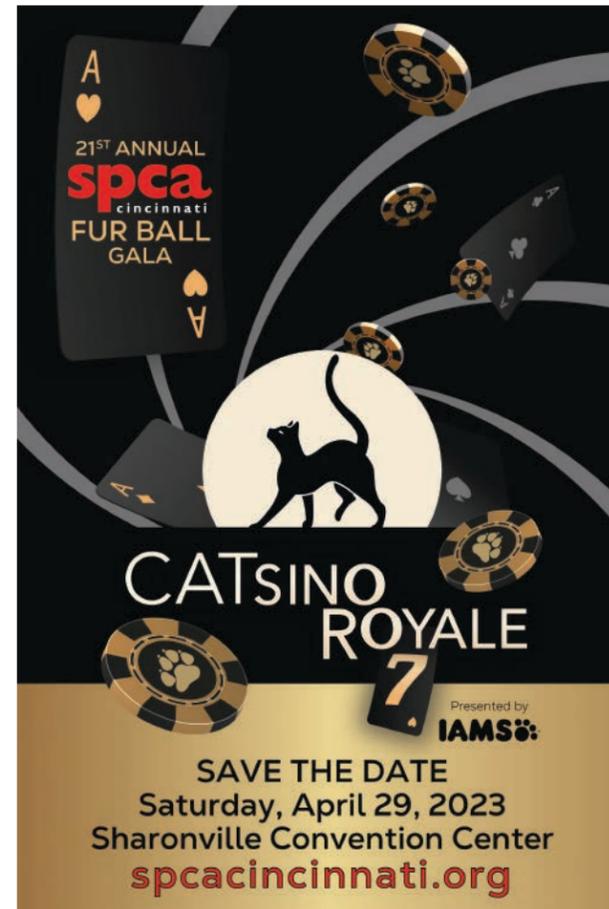
The **SPCA Cincinnati** is currently developing its Veterans Program and expanding its Humane Education curriculum to provide our community with more ways to benefit from the love of pets and encourage a kinder society. We are excited to unveil these services throughout this year.

Your dedication is greatly appreciated and essential to our mission. On behalf of our Staff and Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for being a part of this community by helping us support these lifesaving and life-changing efforts.



Warm regards,

Mike Retzlaff  
President & CEO



## The Brave Soul of Sol!



It's difficult to imagine some of the trauma that homeless pets endure before entering our facility.

When the **SPCA Cincinnati** received Sol from St. Lucia, a frail 2-year-old male Royal Bahamian Potcake mix (most commonly known as a Lab), our medical team had no record of his injuries. "We cannot speak to the exact cause of Sol's suffering; we do know he has survived something horrific," says Dr. Jennifer Smith. Sol's health progressed in the care of the **SPCA Cincinnati** — receiving antibiotics and skin care treatment. Coupled with standard medical procedures which make pets healthy and adoptable (such as vaccinations, spay/neuter, microchipping and more), Sol's medical costs exceeded \$500.

It is because of our generous supporters that the **SPCA Cincinnati** can rescue more animals and save more lives. Our shelter receives hundreds of specialized medical cases each year that are costly. Pets like Sol have a fighting chance because of your compassion and commitment to animal welfare in our local community. Thank You!

## National Efforts: the Virginia Beagles



There are times when we come across large acts of unfathomable deeds. As a preferred partner in animal welfare, our shelter immediately answered the call-to-action when the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) reached out to the **SPCA Cincinnati** in August. The mission was to aid in the removal of nearly 4,000 beagles from a Cumberland, Virginia, breeding facility. Government inspectors found (based upon a statement made by HSUS):

- Beagles being euthanized instead of receiving care for easily treatable conditions.
- Nursing mother beagles were denied food. The food they received contained maggots, mold and feces over an eight-week period.
- 25 beagle puppies died from cold exposure.

The **SPCA Cincinnati** traveled to an assigned location to retrieve 26 beagles from Virginia. Our focus was simple: provide the beagles with proper medical care and prepare them for adoption into safe homes. Our **Shelter2Shelter** program allows our organization to handle cases like this one, demonstrating to our constituents our ability to rescue animals in need both near and far.

We couldn't do any of this without the support of our community! In order to sustain this high level of operation, we rely on charitable contributions. It was the generosity of our donors that saved the lives of these 26 beagles who are now in loving homes here in the Greater Cincinnati area. Thank you for your continued commitment to see our mission forward!



# Zombie Lives!



Every year when kitten season hits, the **SPCA Cincinnati** is flooded with adorable kittens. One of my favorite little panleukopenia survivors is Zombie. She was at death's door when she arrived — skin and bones, cold and dehydrated. Her eyes were so matted and abscessed that we could not see the globes and she had horrible diarrhea. For the first four days, she was kept in an incubator with an IV fluid drip to keep her hydrated and keep her blood sugar from crashing.

We were afraid she wouldn't make it. In fact, the second morning, we thought we had lost her. She was cold, limp and unresponsive. It wasn't until we saw a subtle breath and found a weak heartbeat that we realized that she was still fighting. Amazingly, we were able to resuscitate her. Her miraculous ability to come back from death earned her the name Zombie!



Many shelters will not even attempt to save these kittens because they do not have the money or resources. Zombie's intensive care cost over \$2,000, and she was only one of the many sick kitties that we save every day. In fact, we took in over 650 kittens in 2022. Your contribution is vital to save Zombie and the hundreds like her.  
– Dr. Jennifer Smith, DVM



# Saving Bane

At the **SPCA Cincinnati**, we receive dogs in all stages of life. Unfortunately, many of our senior pets arrive with any number of medical problems that come with age, like Bane. A frail and quiet elderly boxer, Bane was in pain and straining every time he tried to go to the bathroom. When he could go, he would only pass small amounts of horribly bloody urine and stool.

After a medical workup (lab tests, X-rays and an ultrasound), we found that this sweet old boy had a fluid-filled tumor the size of a plum on his prostate. It could be cancer or a large prostatic abscess, both of which are very difficult to treat in dogs and have a high risk of being lethal. Things did not look good for Bane. He started on strong antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to help his pain and we reached out to many rescues, but no one would accept him with such serious medical issues.

In the following weeks, we saw Bane become more comfortable on the medications. We neutered him and Bane then entered our hospice foster program (a.k.a. Fospice Program). The **SPCA Cincinnati's** Fospice Program places animals who would typically not be adoptable because of severe, and often terminal, illnesses into loving homes to live out their final days.

As the months passed, Bane got stronger and his foster found that our debilitated old boy still had a bit of playful puppy side. Repeated ultrasounds showed that the mass was getting smaller on the medications. After five months of treatment, Bane is stronger and happier. We are thrilled that we can no longer find that mass on his prostate. We do not consider him hospice any more.

Bane's foster fell in love with him and is now his adopter!

Providing longer-term care versus simply euthanizing complicated cases like Bane's is costly. His treatments have cost over \$2,000. We can only provide that type of care with the generosity of donors like you. Everyone at the **SPCA Cincinnati**, Bane and his new loving family thank you for supporting our mission. – Dr. Jennifer Smith, DVM

