

2014 Annual Report

SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Check out the impact that PGSPCA programs are making in our region, from providing critical community services to investing in the next generation of veterinarians.





PRESIDENT’S LETTER

We’ve accomplished a lot in the past year, thanks to the amazing people who work together to make PGSPCA succeed: our volunteers, the veterinary professionals who help us, our many community partners, and of course, our donors and supporters.

Many think of us as a rescue group, and that alone is a worthy purpose. It’s true that we rescue and re-home at-risk animals from the county shelter, but we proudly do much more than rescue. We hold monthly low-cost shot clinics and quarterly free spay/neuter events; we offer the county’s only private cruelty and neglect prevention hotline; and we are active advocates for animal welfare at the local and state level.

This year, we’ve seen our shot clinic customer base grow by almost 50% and we’ve expanded our adoption program to save medically needy animals from being euthanized due to their injuries. We paid for the new canine exercise/interaction yard at the shelter, provided custom-made food dispensers, and helped in countless other ways. We continue to sponsor the spay/neuter surgeries of at-risk cats and dogs who would otherwise not be rescued. We’ve even started a new undergraduate scholarship for pre-veterinary students at the University of Maryland.

We do all this and more with a core group of volunteers and a lot of help from our donors. We thank you for your continued commitment and support. We couldn’t do it without you, and we’d love to see you get even more involved. Adopt, foster, volunteer, donate. Make a difference. The animals need you.

TAMELA TERRY

PRESIDENT, SPCA/HUMANE SOCIETY OF PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY

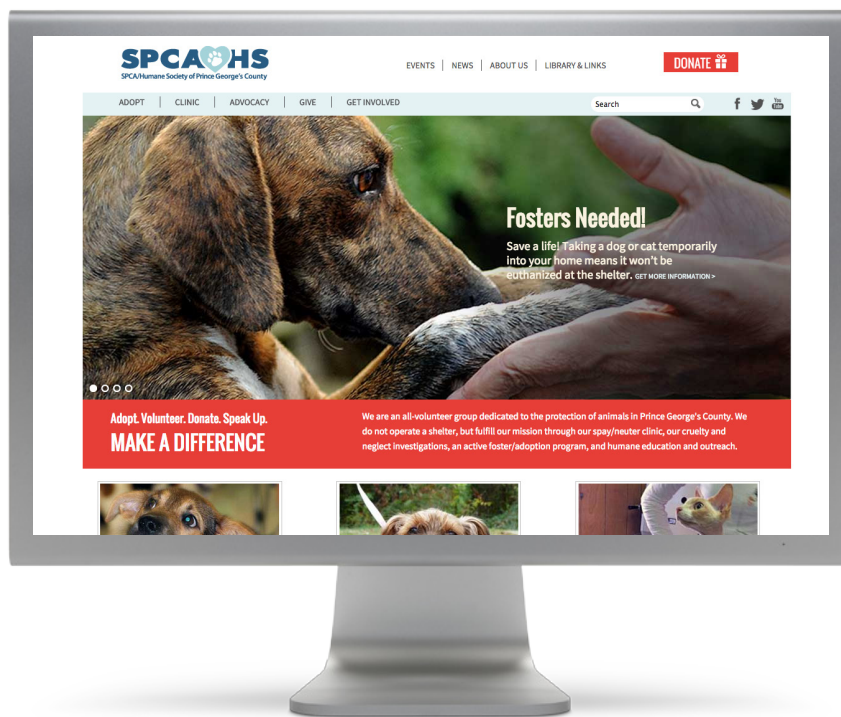
2014 BY THE NUMBERS

Thanks to our donors and hardworking volunteers, the PGSPCA continues to provide critical services to underserved populations in Prince George’s County and throughout the DC/Baltimore metro region.

Service	Qty
VACCINATIONS	2,629
CANINE RABIES	1,063
CANINE DISTEMPER	1,120
FELINE RABIES	238
FELINE DISTEMPER	208
MICROCHIPS	182
SPAY/NEUTER	164
PAYING CLIENTS	27
NO-COST CLIENTS	137
ADOPTIONS	42
CALLS ON 24-HOUR HOTLINE	1,697
2014 MEASURABLE IMPACT	4,714

OVERVIEW

SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES



In August 2014, the PGSPCA successfully launched its new website. Although our previous site had served us well for many years, we were due for an upgrade. The new site, built on the WordPress platform, has improved digital communication and social media messaging with our volunteers, clients, and peers. The widely-used platform also enables us to handle edits and updates in-house, critical to an all-volunteer organization. Visit us at PGSPCA.org to check it out!

The PGSPCA adoption program widened its focus to specifically include animals with medical needs. Our relationships with regional veterinarians have uniquely positioned us to take animals into our program that might otherwise be euthanized due to injuries or ongoing medical conditions. This relationship goes both ways. Veterinarians who provide pro bono services to strays or owner giveups need an organization to care for recuperating animals and to help place those animals in new homes

once they are on the mend. We are also contacted by the county shelter when animals come in with injuries or conditions that cannot be addressed by their staff or budgets. We work with those same veterinarians to evaluate these animals, determine the best course of action, and to treat them pro bono or at a reduced cost.

This entire system relies upon our dedicated volunteers—from program managers and foster families, to adoption show handlers and IT support. Without them, none of this is possible.



New fundraisers and events were featured in 2014. We tried out a few new ideas this year in an effort to reach new clients, adopters, and volunteers. In addition to our regular adoption shows, vaccination clinics, and spay/neuter clinics, we added these events:

- Bones n' Pawz Fashion Show — Hyattsville
- Maryland Dogfest
- DO MORE 24 / United Way of the National Capital Area — Online Fundraiser
- Firestation 1 Yappy Hour — Silver Spring
- BarkBox — Online Fundraiser
- Amazon Smile — Online Fundraiser
- ResQthreads — Online Fundraiser
- ResQwalk — Online Fundraiser
- WoofTrax — Online Fundraiser
- Bowie Baysox "Mutt Monday" — Bowie
- Franklin's Fundraiser — Hyattsville
- Bark! Adoption Show — Annapolis
- Howl-o-Ween Barkin' Bash — Annapolis
- Alternative Gift Fair — Takoma Park

We took our popular "Heads & Tails" print newsletter online. Re-imagined as "Tales From the Barkside", our goal is to publish six e-newsletters each year. Our subscription base has doubled in the last year. Visit our website to subscribe!

The PGSPCA was invited to participate in animal welfare planning at both the regional and state level. PGSPCA volunteers represented our organization at "Humane Lobby Day" in Annapolis, organized by HSUS and Maryland Votes for Animals. We reviewed upcoming animal-welfare bills and visited the offices of Bowie's senator and delegate. We made some good contacts, and helped make a good showing for the animals.

PGSPCA board members participated in several meetings with local county and city representatives to discuss the possibility of a new shelter in Prince George's County. Research and debate continues, but we are pleased to be included in the initiative.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ADOPTION & FOSTERING

Whether they are seen at adoption events in neighborhood pet stores, or featured on the local television news, the animals in our adoption program certainly draw the most interest and attention from the general public.

The PGSPCA adoption program remains firmly focused on Prince George's County, drawing nearly all of its animals from the county's public shelter. With thousands of animals euthanized in our county each year, the PGSPCA has made a conscious decision not to import animals from other areas when the need is so great here.

Once brought into the program, our adoptable dogs and cats live in the homes of volunteer foster families, who

work with each pet on housebreaking and basic commands; provide food, toys, bedding, exercise, and a safe environment; manage their medical treatments; and transport them to and from vet appointments, adoption shows and other special events. Most importantly, foster families give our animals love. Through daily interaction, our volunteers develop a keen understanding of each pet's personality and needs, so they can make the best match between a pet and its forever home.

Fostering for the PGSPCA is a little like bringing home a new pet. There are certainly challenges, but rewards come as kisses and wiggles. PGSPCA volunteer, Sandy Twigg, explains, "The Prince George's

County Animal Management facility, where most of our animals come from, is a public shelter and is frequently filled to capacity. The shelter is often forced to euthanize perfectly adoptable dogs and cats for space. All these animals need is a little time and some TLC in foster care to find the forever home they deserve."

The PGSPCA is always in need of more volunteers, for fostering and other critical programs. If you are interested in fostering or volunteering with us in any capacity, email us at info@pgspca.org. One of our volunteers will contact you to go over program details, answer any questions, and help you get started in rescue!

Adoption Update: "Walter"

We love receiving updates on our foster animals, like this note from one of our adopters. Send us your PGSPCA adoption stories and photos at info@pgspca.org.

Hi Lizzie,

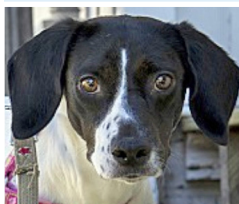
You might remember that we adopted Walter, the terrier akita mix about 4 or 5 years ago. Wow! Time sure goes fast! He is still a goofy boy and has a lot of energy, but very lovable. We feel like he is going to live for at least 30 more years! We also adopted a Great Pyrenees about a year after we had Walter. They get along great and love each other.

I wanted to let you know that my husband accepted a job in England and we couldn't leave our beloved dogs behind, so we brought them with us! Walter is now living in Windsor, England. He gets to enjoy his daily outings on "The Long Walk", which is an area that leads right up to Windsor Castle!

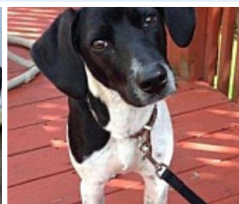
Kelly E.



Class of 2014: Our PGSPCA Foster Program Graduates



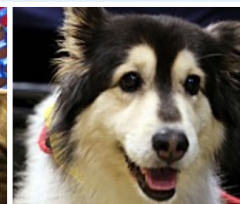
Daisy



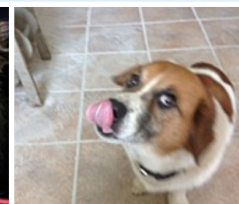
Deuce



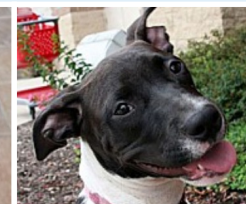
Binkie



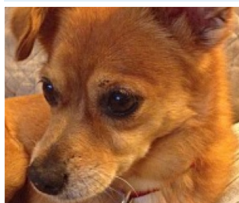
Lucy



Buster



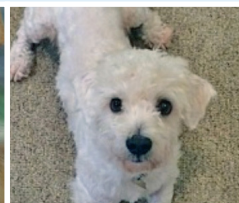
Molly



Pepper



Ruby Lui



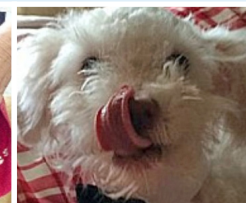
Milo



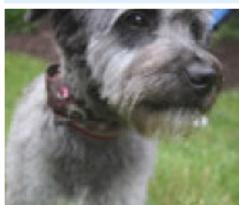
Ricky



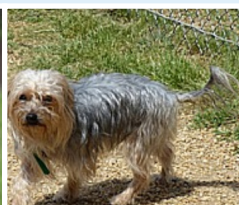
Hana



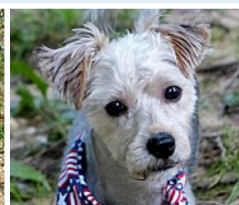
Elijah



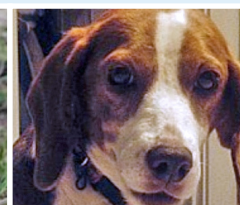
Achilles



Dazzle



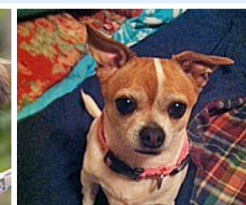
Tiny Tim



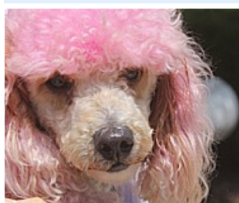
Lemoncello



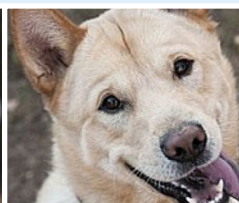
Kol



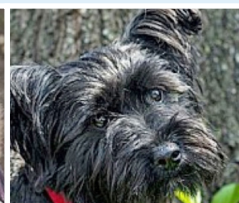
Bee Bee Rose



Pippa



Vaughn



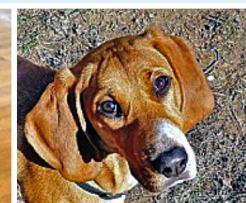
Jasmine



Polo



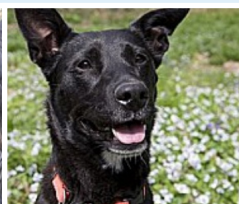
Sasha



Lola



Erica



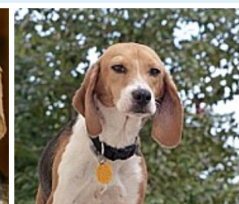
Cecilia



Blondie



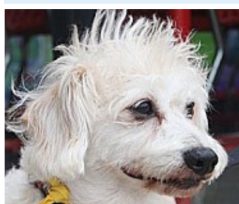
Peter



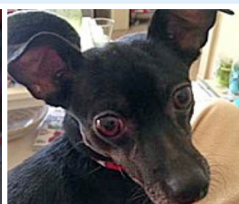
Lily



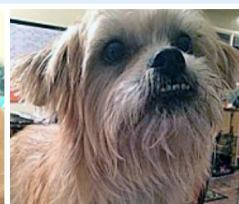
Rose



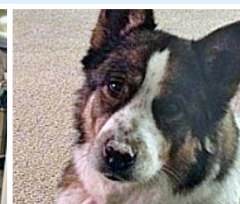
Shaun



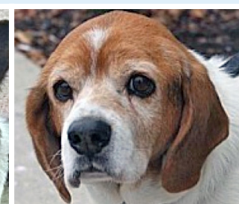
Martha



Chewbacca



Patience



Clark Kent



Mittens



“Operation Hot Dog”—Beagle Rescue at Its Best!

Just before a snowstorm, we got word of three stray beagles on a farm in southern Prince George’s County. The property owners had been feeding them for a few weeks, but were moving soon and didn’t want to leave them uncared for. Our adoption coordinator, Denise Reitan, went out to help.

Originally, there were three beagles coming to eat, but one of them had been limping and hadn’t been seen for a while. We feared the worst, but by pure luck, Denise got lost trying to find the house and spotted the missing dog wandering along the

side of the road. Armed with hot dogs, she lured the beagle close enough to leash. One down, two to go!

Denise soon found the house and with the residents, went looking for the other two. At first there was no sign of the two remaining beagles and the search party was a little discouraged, but all of a sudden, one of the beagles was walking alongside them. She was super friendly and very easy to leash up. Two down, one to go!

The last beagle was then spotted in the distance. She was reluctant to get too close, but decided to

be brave when she saw her friend gobbling down hot dogs. Although she would take hot dogs from Denise’s hand, she wouldn’t allow a leash to be put over her head. Luckily, she was willing to follow her leashed friend onto an enclosed porch and our volunteer managed to catch her there.

Our vets checked them over and treated a few minor issues, but overall the dogs were in good shape. After no owners turned up during the required stay holding period, we placed these beautiful girls in new foster homes.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MEDICAL SERVICES

Spay/Neuter

One of our primary missions is to reduce pet over-population through our spay/neuter program. We hold quarterly spay/neuter clinics, offering low income pet owners in Prince George's County the opportunity to have their pets altered for free, thanks to a grant from the Snyder Foundation. Other clients, whose income is too high to qualify for the grant, pay a nominal fee for the surgery. In 2014, 163 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered at our clinic in Forestville. In addition to the surgery, our veterinary team provided vaccinations, inserted microchips, removed teeth and cleaned ears. Each client was given pain medication for their pet, and instructions for post-surgery care.

In addition to the Snyder Foundation grant, in 2014, the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County was awarded one of the first grants from the state of

Maryland, to provide low-cost spay and neuter services targeted to low income pet owners. We received \$20,000 to provide no-cost surgeries for pets of residents in low-income neighborhoods. Special "FreeFix" events will be held throughout 2015.

Vaccinations

Neither rain nor snow nor steamy heat gets in the way of the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County's low-cost shot clinics! Each month, whatever the weather, a dedicated group of volunteers welcomes pet owners, who line up with their animals long before the clinic opens. For many of them, this is the only time their pets will see a vet all year. In 2014, more than 1350 people brought their animals in for rabies and distemper vaccinations. We microchipped 118 animals, offering their families the comfort of knowing their pets could be returned home if they were ever lost.



PGSPCA Medical Director, Dr. Shawanne Spencer, DVM, treating one of our patients.



PGSPCA Board Members meet with scholarship recipient, Johnson Huanming Chen (center) and Leslie Joyce from the University of Maryland Office of External Relations Development (3rd from left).

Investing in Futures

PGSPCA creates endowed scholarship at the University of Maryland

In 2014, the PGSPCA established an endowed fund to support need-based student scholarships at the

University of Maryland. Many of our pre-vet student volunteers and veterinary partners began their journey in animal care at the University, and the scholarship was created in their honor.

Under the TerpStart program, PGSPCA's \$30,000 commitment is matched by the

University and continues in perpetuity.

Animal Sciences major, Johnson Huangming Chen ('16) is the first recipient. In a letter to the PGSPCA, Chen writes, "My family is originally from Taiwan and when I was three we moved to Maryland. Growing up the only place I wanted to attend was the University of Maryland, but I never thought it would be possible. With encouragement from my family and having the opportunity to receive the PGSPCA TerpStart has meant I can really achieve my dream career... You have provided me with the opportunity to enjoy the college experience, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

For more information on the TerpStart program or to contribute to the PGSPCA's fund, visit www.terpstart.umd.edu.



Join Us!

As an all-volunteer organization, the importance of our volunteers cannot be stressed enough.

Without them, the PGSPCA simply would not exist. From foster families, program coordinators, and shot clinic crew to board members, our social media team, and administrative help—volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. To all of our volunteers, thank you!

For more information on our volunteer opportunities and how you can help the PGSPCA accomplish its critical mission, email us at info@pgspca.org.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HUMANE EDUCATION

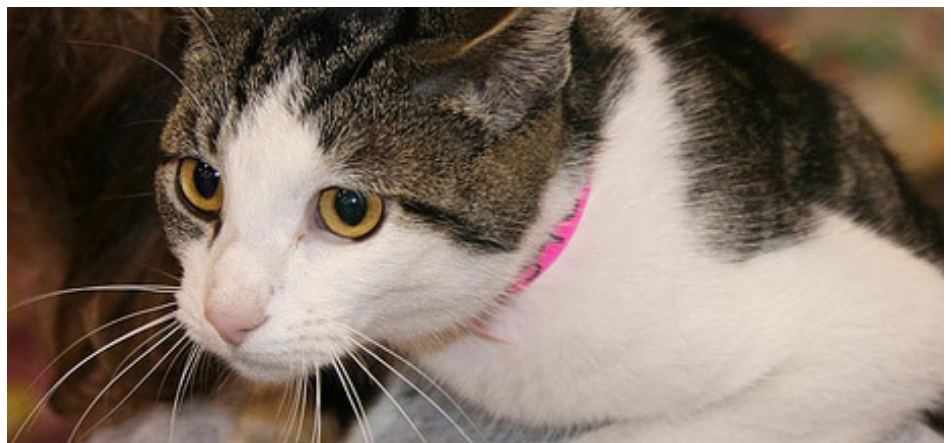
Every branch of PGSPCA programming touches on Humane Education, whether it is directed at our donors, our clients, or our community. Every interaction is an opportunity to advocate for the humane treatment of animals and the development of healthy human-animal bonds.

- We operate one of the only 24-hour emergency hotlines for animal welfare in our region, fielding and responding to calls that range from a snapping turtle in the yard, to a dog trapped in a fence, to bite cases and medical emergencies.
- At our clinics, volunteers work with pet owners to make sure their animals receive timely, affordable vaccinations and spay/neuter services.
- We are out in the community each week talking to the public at adoption shows, clinics and local fairs, engaging with owners and making our case for positive pet ownership.



- Volunteers hit the airwaves, taking our foster animals on local TV news and animal-related programs.

To invite the PGSPCA to participate in or speak at your next community event, please contact us at info@pgspca.org.



SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County, Inc.

PO Box 925, Bowie, MD 20718 | 301.262.5625 | info@pgspca.org
United Way #8977 | Combined Federal Campaign #73668
Maryland Charity Campaign #2526 | EIN #52-1047460

The SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County, Inc. is a nonprofit organization of volunteers dedicated to animal welfare. We are chartered by the State of Maryland, but we receive no state or county funds. Our activities are supported solely by contributions, dues and fundraising events.