



Welcome to the Wake County Animal Center Community Newsletter: Wags and Brags! This seasonal newsletter features adoption information, responsible pet ownership tips, updates from the center and much more. Thanks for reading!



Join our Fabulous Feline Foster Family

Do you have what it takes to join our Fabulous Feline Foster Family (4F)? Cat season gets longer every year, and we need fosters who have the time and passion it takes to successfully prepare cats of all ages for adoption.

We can find a pet that suits your lifestyle. The easiest population to foster is adult cats. Most just need time to decompress, stretch their legs and be a cat in an environment more comfortable than a small kennel at the shelter. Some are more social than others and might require more attention. Others may just need someone to give them what they need and are fine to hang out with you until they find their forever home. Some cases may be more difficult, such as cats recovering from surgeries, cats with minor to major medical issues requiring medicine administration, and cats that need help with socialization or confidence.

No matter the situation, we have the support you need within the program so you can learn as you go.

Kittens may be the most difficult population to foster. Despite their cute fluffy appearance, kittens are fragile. They can die easily of several causes, such as preventable issues like upper respiratory infections or parasites, undetected birth defects and diseases they pick up prior to coming to the center. Kittens may die because they were born too early. Kittens need fosters who are prepared to deal with difficult situations and ready to push on in the quest to save one more life. They're truly amazing, and YOU can be amazing, too!

All fosters are heroes. No matter your skill set, we have a pet that needs you. Despite the ups and downs, fostering is rewarding and gives you the opportunity to meet others who have big hearts combined with nerves of steel. If you

have a spare room and the time and skills it takes to herd cats and kittens, then we would love to welcome you to our 4F family.

If you are not able to foster, you can still help. Check out our [Amazon Wish Lists](#) for Kitten Season and our shelter in general.

Thank You, Volunteers!

We could not do what we do for our animals without the dedication of our volunteers. Every spring, Wake County honors the volunteers who give their time for our community. In this issue of Wags and Brags, we introduce you to two volunteers who have made a difference in the lives of our animals.

Corinthia Rader

How long have you volunteered at the animal center?

I have volunteered at the center for two years now.

What do you do as a volunteer?

I am a dog walker, playgroup helper, dog cuddler, and also help with the microchip and rabies clinic.

Why did you decide to become a volunteer with WCAC?

I decided to become a volunteer at WCAC, because I am extremely passionate about animals, especially dogs. I wanted to be a part of helping the dogs at the shelter keep hope that one day they will find their forever homes.

What do you like about volunteering with WCAC?

I absolutely love everything about volunteering with WCAC. Sometimes I feel that spending time with the dogs helps me more than I help them. The animals are such huge stress relievers. I love being a part of the dogs' lives at that point in their lives. Also, it is such a great place to meet amazing people. The other volunteers and the staff are some of the most caring, kind and amazing people I've met. You can tell everyone is passionate about the animals and wants to do everything they can to find a forever home for the animals.

What is something surprising or unexpected that you have learned since you started volunteering?

I, like most, had misconceptions about local government animal shelters. You always hear the worst stories about shelters and how they don't care for the animals or really fight for them. Ever since I've started volunteering at WCAC, my mind has been completely changed and blown away. The volunteers and staff members are some of the most passionate advocates I've ever met for the animals and, on every occasion, they go above and beyond to fight for the animals to make sure that they are able to end up in forever homes or rescues.

What would you tell anyone who is considering volunteering?

I would tell them to be prepared to have it bring such a fulfillment to your everyday life. And just know, for that moment, you have helped that animal understand that there are people who care about them, and by you taking the time to come out and walk or sit with them, you gave that animal hope.





Abigail Hiley

How long have you volunteered at the animal center?

I started volunteering here in January 2018.

What do you do as a volunteer?

I'm trained to be a cat cuddler. Cuddling helps to socially enrich the cats and will help them be ready for a new home. If they are sweet here, they'll be good in a home. I would like to foster during kitten season.

Why did you decide to become a volunteer with WCAC?

I am a sophomore Animal Science major at N.C. State, and I have always loved animals and have been passionate about rescuing animals. In middle school I volunteered at a dog rescue. I got a cat at age 8 and a dog at 13. I'm applying to vet school after graduation and want to get into small animal medicine, such as dogs and cats. My roommate started volunteering here, and she encouraged me to start volunteering here.

What do you like about volunteering with WCAC?

I cannot have animals while in school. My dog is at home, and my cat passed away recently. I started volunteering here because I missed my dog at home and my cat.

What is something surprising or unexpected that you have

learned since you started volunteering?

I enjoy seeing the numbers of animals that are helped at the center, and I really appreciate everyone's honesty and assistance. I think it is cool to see all of the resources that the county provides to the center. It is sad to see the owner surrender animals, but encouraging to see the number of people who come here to look at animals. Why would people pay \$3,000 for a dog when they could get one here that needs a home?

What would you tell anyone who is considering volunteering?

Everyone here is really nice and very helpful. There are plenty of people who want to help because we are all here for the same reason. It's a great way to interact and help animals if you aren't able to adopt one yourself. There are also lots of different opportunities here to help the animals. Even if you are allergic, you can still write bios of animals available for adoption or take pictures.



Welcome to Pittie and Kittie Present: Responsible Pet Ownership! In every issue of Wags and Brags, we'll feature important information for the health and well-being of your pet. This month, we bring you:

How to be a Good Neighbor

As temperatures rise and we spend more time outside with our pets, it is important to be a responsible pet owner and good neighbor at the same time. The following guidelines will help

everyone enjoy time spent in the neighborhood this season.

1. **Be friendly and understanding.** Not everyone is a pet lover. Some people have allergies, and some are fearful of pets. Don't force your pet on your neighbor.
2. **Don't let your dog or cat run loose in the neighborhood.** Not every neighbor wants your cat roaming the neighborhood - especially if their azalea garden is your cat's favorite litter box. There are leash laws for both cats and dogs.
3. **Be considerate of your neighbors.** We all know how noisy pets can be, especially if you have more than one and they are playing in the house! If you live in an apartment, make sure your pets aren't running around

- and making noise that disturbs your downstairs neighbors. Also, make sure you don't leave your pet outside barking for long periods of time, especially in the early morning or the late evening hours. If you are the one being disturbed, talk to your neighbor before calling the police. Sometimes that small step can go a long way.
4. **Pick up after your pet.** Don't leave poop or poop bags around your neighborhood. It is a community and you are responsible for your portion.
 5. **Communication with neighbors is key.** If you have a dog that isn't so dog/kid/person friendly, tell your neighbors. It could be as simple as saying, "Hey, I know your dog, Susie, loves everyone, but Rosco isn't so trusting. I am working with him and it is best to ask before approaching him when we are out walking."

For more information on how to be a good neighbor, read our [Neighborhood Dog Owner Guidelines](#).

Dog Bite Prevention

National Dog Bite Prevention Week is recognized in the spring, but this important topic should be observed year-round. Most dog bites that occur are preventable. Children, the elderly and postal carriers are the most frequent victims of dog bites, with children being the most common victims. Surprisingly, most dog bites to young children occur during everyday activities and by familiar dogs.

Share these tips with children to help prevent dog bites:

- Don't run past a dog. Dogs love to play chase and may grab at a running child.
- Never disturb a dog that is eating, sleeping or caring for puppies.
- Never reach over or through a fence to pet a dog.
- Always ask, "May I please pet your dog?" before reaching out to pet someone's dog.
- If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your head and neck. Protect your face.
- If a dog approaches you, stand still like a tree, and don't scream or yell. Avoid eye contact with the dog. Don't turn and run. Try to stay still until the dog leaves, or back away slowly until the dog is out of sight.

Tips for parents:

- Most bites occur by familiar dogs. Never leave a child unattended with a dog, even your own.
- Always teach your children to ask before petting someone's dog. Not all dogs like children. If the person says no, teach your child that it is okay and best for both them and the dog.
- Teach your child proper behavior around all animals. Children should not lay on dogs, pull their ears, ride them like ponies or poke at them.
- Watch this eye-opening video - [Stop the 77](#) - about how dogs and children interact and what, sometimes, we aren't seeing.

Tips for dog owners:

- Socialize your dog. If your dog isn't properly socialized or isn't good with kids/strangers/etc., be aware of that.
- You are responsible for the actions of your dog. Be mindful of your pet and who may be approaching your dog.
- Don't set your dog up for failure by putting them in situations where bites could occur. For example, if you are having a gathering at your home and your dog isn't great with kids and/or strangers, securely place your dog in a separate area of the home away from the party. It will be less stressful for them and will keep everyone safe. Make sure everyone knows where the dog is so that parents can advise their kids to stay away from that area.

Remember, all dogs have teeth and any dog can bite, even yours.

What happens if you are bitten by a dog or your dog bites a person?

Under North Carolina law, a dog must be quarantined for 10 days if it bites a person. It doesn't matter if they are up to date on their rabies vaccinations or not. The circumstances of the bite, rabies vaccination status and jurisdiction where the bite occurred will determine where the quarantine must be take place. All bites must be reported by law.

More information on Dog Bite Prevention can be found on the [American Veterinary Medical Foundation website](#).

Animal Control Officer Profile: Clarence Kinley

Growing up on a farm and loving animals has led Clarence

Kinley to a decade-long career as an Animal Control Officer with Wake County. Now he's using his job to help spread the word about animal safety in Wake County, including rabies prevention.

Originally from Lexington, North Carolina, Kinley grew up on a farm and interacted with animals on a regular basis. He studied education at Greensboro College and moved to Wake County in 2006. After an interaction with a local animal control, he decided to pursue a career as an animal control officer.

"I thought being an animal control officer would be a good job to combine my love of outdoors with helping animals," he said. Kinley began working with the Wake County Animal Center as an ACO in 2007. Almost 11 years into his job with Wake County Animal Control, Kinley says that his day-to-day work is still exciting and unpredictable.



"You never know what you will be doing from minute to minute. Each day is different," said Kinley. "One minute you could be doing a cat trap request, the next you could be responding to a dog attack or going on a raid with local law enforcement."

In addition to responding to animal control calls, Kinley also helps prevent rabies by working at the county's low-cost rabies clinics, where residents can bring their dogs, cats and ferrets to be vaccinated. Kinley assists with restraining animals as they receive the vaccine at the clinics. He also administers one-year vaccines.

"Having your pet vaccinated for rabies can save their life," said Kinley. "These clinics are a great option and help keep pets and people safe from rabies."

For Kinley, knowing that he is saving animals from potential cruelty situations and getting injured animals the care they need are his favorite parts of the job.

"Going into this career, I never expected to be working with local law enforcement on big cases. I've been able to assist the sheriff's department with response and have worked on gathering evidence of dog fighting."

There are tough days on the job, but for Kinley it's worth it knowing that he's making a difference in the lives of animals and people in the county. "I want people to know that we're here to protect the public and their pets from rabies," said Kinley. "I also want people to know that we care about the animals we pick up. Just because we take a dog does not mean we are going to euthanize it. That is the last thing we want to do. We want to bring it to health and find it a safe home."

Kinley has seen a lot during his 11 years on the job. In addition to black panthers and rumored alligators, the craziest calls he's responded to have been for bears.

When he's not protecting the animals and residents of Wake County, Kinley likes to enjoy the great outdoors with his wife and two sons while fishing, running and playing soccer. "Both of my sons are into soccer, so I spend a lot of time on the soccer field." Kinley is also an avid runner who ran cross country and track in high school and aspires to do a full marathon.

WCAC Monthly Reports

The Wake County Animal Center tracks the number of animals that are brought into the center, adopted out, transferred to rescue partners and other important statistics monthly. These numbers are compared to previous months and past years to give a complete picture of trends, while helping staff determine what areas can be improved upon.

View these reports on our [website](#).





Mission Statement of the Wake County Animal Center: Determined to make a difference for the animals and citizens of Wake County through education, adoption, enforcement and community partnership.