



## FINDING THE HEART IN HUMANITY

### MISSION

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### Overview

Founded in 1929, the Chester County SPCA exists to end animal suffering and to involve the entire community in the welfare and well-being of animals. Our organization's mission is to put the "human" back in humane animal treatment and advocate on their behalf. We accomplish this goal by promoting the adoption of healthy animals, prevention of animal overpopulation with spay and neuter resources, and provision of affordable veterinary services as well as support to the public so that pets can remain in loving families. Engaging communities as a whole results in happier and healthier companions.

Being an open-access shelter covering both Chester and Delaware Counties can prove difficult at times, but we welcome the chance to connect with an array of people. In doing so, we are committed to making progressive, proactive changes to benefit as many people and animals as possible.

The Chester County SPCA is a non-profit organization that relies solely on the generosity of the community to support our programs and services. The CCSPCA is a tax exempt charity under section 501(c)3 of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code.

### Adoption Center

Chester County SPCA's Adoption Center was home to over 4,100 animals during 2014, and we have the ability to house up to 250 animals at any particular time. Last year, 3,403 animals found their forever homes with the assistance of our caring staff and volunteers.

At the Chester County SPCA, we value every animal equally and consider all to be priceless. Our adoption fees vary and are dependent on many factors including age, size, breed, behavior, medical condition, and public demand. Higher adoption fees for animals that are easy to place give us additional resources to provide extra help to other animals in our shelter – such as those that may require more specific medical treatment, behavior training, those who are on hold pending animal cruelty investigations, or those who simply have a more difficult time finding the right family and take a little longer to find their forever home.

We provide veterinary care to each of our animals prior to adoption and incur those costs as soon as the animals enter our facility, regardless of how long they stay with us before finding their forever families; we spend \$215 per cat and \$315 per dog. Adoption fees offset these costs and enable us to provide high-quality care for each and every animal that passes through our doors.

### VISION

To be the recognized leader in animal welfare that empowers communities to treat life with respect and dignity.

### 2014 Snapshot

- Founded in 1929
- Power in numbers: 35 staff, 160 volunteers
- 3,403 animals adopted, rescued, or owner-claimed
- 1,571 animals spayed or neutered since the opening of the Muhly Clinic
- 13,000+ hours volunteered

### Shelter History

More than 40 years before the Chester County SPCA was founded, another animal welfare organization flourished in the county. However, with the passing of one of its most prominent representatives, the organization fell apart. As a result, agents from the Pennsylvania SPCA in Philadelphia investigated animal cruelty complaints in Chester County, although the distance between the city and the county often proved to be an obstacle.

All that changed in 1929 when several local women witnessed a horrific act that compelled them to take action. A group of boys coaxed several homeless dogs out from under a porch and proceeded to beat the dogs to death. As a result, the women got together with other concerned citizens in October of 1929 to form the largest registered nonprofit animal welfare organization in the county – the Chester County SPCA. Initially, due to the lack of a shelter facility, members of the organization housed and cared for animals in their homes.

The Chester County SPCA shelter building, then known as the Franz W. Ackermann Memorial Shelter, opened its doors on February 10, 1930. In an article in the West Chester Local News (now known as the Daily Local News), the shelter's intentions were listed as "Stray dogs, lost, (will be) treated with humane kindness and expedition. Under experience management, the shelter will try to find the owners of lost and strayed dogs, permanent homes and owners for the deserted, and will prosecute cases of cruelty. The public may secure pets here under payment of a nominal fee, covering cost of license and tagging, and a guarantee of good faith."

As Chester County grew, so did the need for better facilities. In 1962, a new shelter, which now serves as the organization's storage shed, was built. Because the needs of the community quickly outgrew that shelter, the current shelter building was erected in 1968. Since then, the building has undergone numerous renovations and expansions in the 1970s, 80s, 90s, and now.

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ANIMAL POPULATION**

- Over the past 10 years, Chester County SPCA has saved the lives of almost 26,000 animals. In 2014 alone, 3,403 found homes through the extraordinary efforts of our staff and volunteers.
- Every animal adopted out from the Chester County SPCA is spayed or neutered previous to going to their forever home.
- In 2014, the Chester County SPCA opened the Muhly Spay/Neuter Clinic, which now allows us to perform spays and neuters on-site for both the shelter animals as well as the public's animals at a significantly reduced cost.
- In the first three months of our spay/neuter clinic, a total of 942 animals were altered in our care.
- Chester County SPCA's spay/neuter clinic also often assists other animal rescues within the area with spay/neuter services.
- Chester County SPCA has also launched a Community Cat program, which encourages the community to bring in free-roaming cats to be examined by our vet, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and identified with an ear notch, ultimately preventing litters of kittens born without homes.

## **CARING FOR ONE AND ALL**

- All animals entering the shelter are fully vetted and tested.
- All animals are microchipped for prompt and permanent identification.
- Surgical care is available for any cat or dog in need.
- All cats are tested for FIV and FeLV, and all dogs are tested for heartworms.
- Dental cleanings and extractions can be performed on-site as part of our veterinary care program.
- Dog walking and supervised playgroups provide an energizing environment for canine residents, day and evening.
- Open Paw, launched in the fall of 2014, creates happier, healthier, and more adoptable dogs via simple changes including Kong feeding, hand-feeding, and other positive stimulation.
- Dog-behavioral training programs and camps are in place to increase adoptability for behaviorally challenged dogs.
- Cats receive enrichment in a communal room as well as with the use of bubbles, lasers, and other creative, positive outlets for our felines.
- An extensive foster network has been created to care for puppies, kittens, and special needs animals.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER**

Ideally, a loving and responsible animal guardian would never have to give up their dog or cat because of the cost of veterinary care. To ease the financial burden for pet owners, the opening of a surgical suite in the summer of 2014 allows us to offer high-quality, affordable veterinary care for sick and injured animals. The immediate result from offering veterinary care is a decrease in the number of animals relinquished to us for financial reasons. Providing necessary veterinary care, which can be something as simple as treating an upper respiratory infection for a cat or dispensing flea prevention medication for a dog, can be enough to keep an animal in a loving home. All proceeds from the Animal Health Center benefit the mission and programs of the Chester County SPCA. Please contact our office at (610) 692-6113 to schedule an appointment today!

## **COMMUNITY CATS**

A "community cat" is defined as any unowned cat, whether the cat is feral, abandoned, lost, or living within a colony. If populations are left uncontrolled, these cats can spread disease as well as have multiple litters, only adding to the amount of homeless animals within the community. In an effort to assist our community in managing these numbers, the Chester County SPCA has implemented a Community Cat program where cats are humanely trapped, examined by our veterinarian, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and identified with an ear notch for a minimal fee. Cats are then returned to their colonies and caretakers.

## **CRITTER CAMPS**

Critter Camps, both day and week-long, are in the process of being developed. Attendees will have guest speakers, make crafts, learn about careers with animals, and meet many of the CCSPCA's adoptable animals.

## **FOSTER PROGRAM**

The Chester County SPCA is an open admissions shelter that takes in the stray and surrendered animals of both Chester and Delaware Counties. In 2013, our shelter took in over 5,500 animals. In 2014 we took in over 4,000 animals. Many of those animals need to be placed in our foster program so that they have the ability to grow and thrive in a loving environment. It allows us to advocate for animals who are without advocates of their own. It also affords us the opportunity to give animals a second chance at fulfilling lives. The Chester County SPCA relies very heavily on its foster program, as these individuals expand the CCSPCA's capacity, creating a virtual shelter beyond our walls.

## **SAFETY NET PROGRAM**

Safety Net helps guardians seeking to surrender pets by exploring solutions to keep the animals. By offering assistance with medical and behavioral issues, the Chester County SPCA is keeping more animals in their homes. The Safety Net helps keep animals from entering the already-overburdened shelter and help those newly adopted animals remain in their adoptive homes.

## **SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES**

In conjunction with the Animal Health Center, another necessary element provided by the Chester County SPCA is high-quality, affordable spaying and neutering of dogs and cats to reduce the number of puppies and kittens born without homes. Our accomplished veterinarian and medical staff can sterilize up to 40 dogs and cats each day.

The fee for spay or neuter varies based on weight and sex, and ranges from \$90 to \$160 for dogs and \$50 to \$60 for cats. Appointments can be made by calling (610) 692-6113.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Our dedicated and tireless volunteers are an integral part of the Chester County SPCA, playing a vital role in almost every aspect of our shelter. More than 160 volunteers provide everything from love and affection for our shelter animals to organization for signature events like our Tails of the Heart Gala to helping with preparing surgical packs for our Animal Health Center. Our volunteers have donated over 13,000 hours to our shelter and our animals this year alone, and we are indebted to their constant support.