

# Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



*Sammy (1995-2009)*



This annual report is dedicated to Sammy, the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA beloved cat, who died Tuesday, April 14, 2009.



## Executive Director's Letter

### 2008: A YEAR OF PRIDE AND RESPONSIBILITY

We all know that 2008 was a difficult financial time for everyone. Like every responsible business, we had to tighten our belts and do more with less. Despite the tough times, we continued our mission to save lives. Can you imagine having to make a choice of reducing costs by killing animals? This choice was unimaginable for us. Today, despite claims by many that it is impossible for an SPCA operating as an open-admission pound to be No Kill, we can proudly say that we have achieved **three years of maintaining this so-called impossible No Kill mission**. Accordingly, we ended 2008 and began 2009 with an incredible *sense of pride*.

But even though we stand proud, we know that the next couple of years will not be easy from a financial standpoint. In addition, although we focus on saving the animals that walk through our door each day, other communities look to us for guidance. Because of our success, a *responsibility* has been thrust upon our SPCA. Today, the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is viewed throughout the nation as a model organization. The continued success of our work is more important now than ever. We are leading the way so animals in other communities can live. We give hope to other communities. Charlottesville-Albemarle has become an important part of a movement—the No Kill movement—that began in San Francisco, California in 1989, then moved to Tompkins County, New York and now with our success, has landed in our own backyard.

Often in these difficult times, one may say we simply cannot accept this responsibility, and further ask him or herself, “Why is a No Kill movement even necessary?” The answer is simple: Without a movement, there would be no change. And without change, four million animals will die in shelters throughout this nation every year. Change must come soon and therefore, it is incumbent upon us to accept this responsibility.

It is important that not only do we continue to succeed for the animals in our community, but we succeed to help animals everywhere. We hope you will read our Annual Report to learn more about what we do to care for and save the animals, because saving the animals is the heart and soul of all we do. We are their hope, you are our future. We thank you for your support and we hope you will continue to help our efforts.

[Love Somebody](#) and we can make 2009 a great year!

“We are loving life!”

Susanne M. Kogut  
Executive Director

# Summary Accomplishments

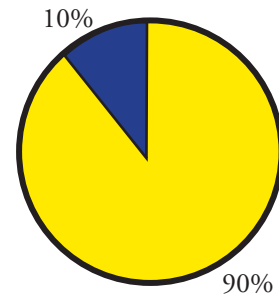
The 2008 year was marked by a number of accomplishments:

**Continued achievement of our No Kill mission;**  
**Record-setting number of spay/neuter surgeries;**  
**Receipt of the prestigious Maddie's Fund Lifesaving Award;** and  
**Recognition as a leader for animals throughout the nation.**

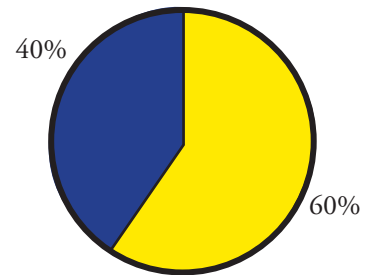
## No Kill mission

In 2005, the SPCA boldly adopted a guarantee of life for all the animals that needed help in our Charlottesville-Albemarle community. For the last few years, we have remained focused on building a world-class team of staff and volunteers to implement lifesaving programs like our foster care, adoption and pet marketing, medical care and spay/neuter programs. At the close of 2008, we have achieved three years of maintaining our No Kill mission, with a save rate of approximately 90% of the animals. The SPCA continues to save all the animals that come through our doors, except those that have serious medical conditions, serious aggression issues or pose a public health and safety risk.

Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA



HSUS National Estimate



Euthanasia Rate  Save Rate 

## Record-setting spay/neuter

This year has also been a banner year for the SPCA's spay/neuter efforts. In 2008, we spayed and neutered approximately 6,000 animals, more than any other year in our history. Continued efforts to provide spay/neuter services to those individuals who can not otherwise afford such service is essential to our No Kill mission.

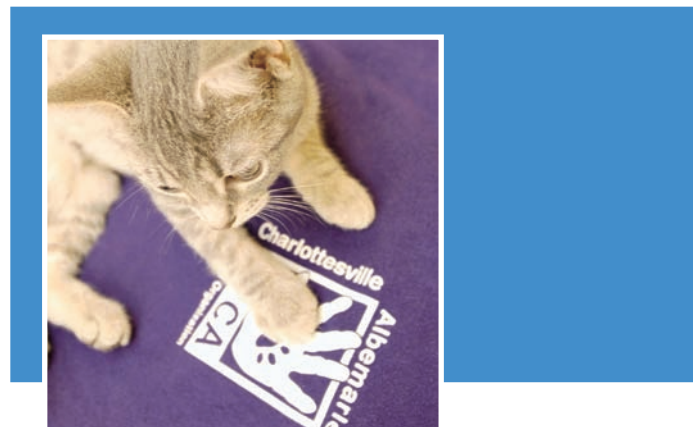
## Lifesaving Award

Maddie's Fund, a foundation whose mission is to revolutionize the status and well-being of companion animals throughout the nation awarded the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA its esteemed Lifesaving Award. This prestigious award recognizes communities and animal welfare organizations that are pioneering efforts to save the lives of our nation's homeless animals. Maddie's Fund President, Richard Avanzino, who is widely recognized as a visionary in the animal welfare movement, described the accomplishments of the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA as "nothing short of heroic... We hope other organizations will look at this community as a lifesaving model and emulate their great success."

## Model for the nation

Finally, because of our success saving animals, everyone wants to know how the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA accomplished for three years what was previously thought to be impossible. Our answer? With dedication, determination and an unrelenting desire to save lives, anything is possible. Our SPCA staff spoke at the following conferences\* to help give others the tools to save lives in their own communities:

- The Best Friends Society 2008 Conference;
- The Humane Society of the United States Expo 2009;
- Federal Executive Institute 2009 "United We Serve" Series;
- The New Jersey Animal Welfare Federation 2009 Conference;
- Virginia Federation of Humane Societies 2009 Conference; and
- The First No Kill Conference in Washington DC 2009.



\* All conference and travel expenses were paid by other organizations or the speakers individually.



# Asilomar Accords

The SPCA has agreed to publish statistical information under nationally recognized guidelines known as the Asilomar Accords. The Asilomar Accords were developed in August 2004 by a group of animal welfare leaders for the purpose of building bridges across varying philosophies, developing relationships and creating goals focused on significantly reducing the euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in the United States.

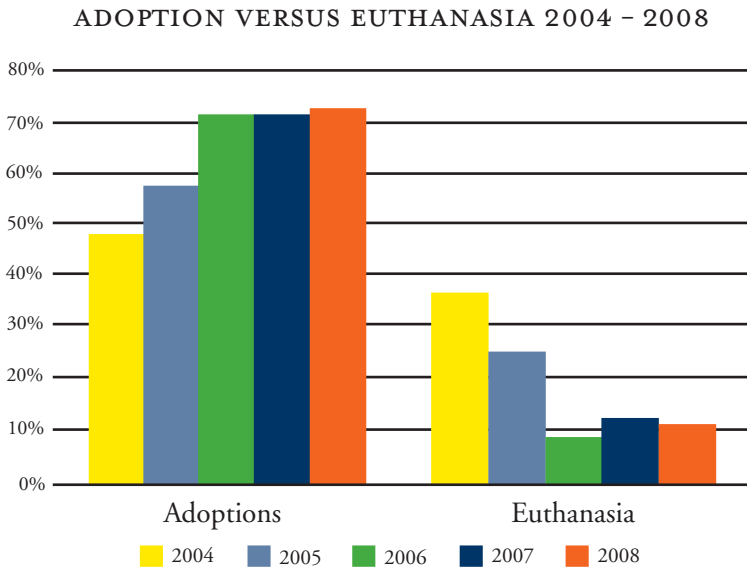
The terminology below contains definitions prescribed by the Accords. The statistics focus on “Live Release Rate,” the percentage of pets that leave a facility alive. When comparing our rate to other organizations, it is expected that the Live Release Rate for facilities that operate as the local animal control facility, like our SPCA, may be lower than private organizations that do not contract with local governments and may limit the number and type of animals they accept. Our SPCA, however, has a Live Release Rate that even exceeds many private organizations with limit-admission policies.

ANNUAL ANIMAL STATISTICS TABLE: CHARLOTTESVILLE - ALBEMARLE SPCA 2008

		Dog	Cat	Total
<b>A</b>	BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT	123	435	558
	<b>INTAKE (Live Dogs &amp; Cats Only)</b>			
<b>B</b>	Intake from the Public	1737	2639	4376
<b>C</b>	Intake from Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition	0	0	0
<b>D</b>	Intake from Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Community/Coalition	48	8	56
<b>E</b>	Subtotal Intake from Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia	0	0	0
<b>F</b>	Total Intake [B + C + D + E]	1785	2647	4432
<b>G</b>	Owners/Guardians Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy and Untreatable Only)	0	0	0
<b>H</b>	ADJUSTED TOTAL INTAKE [F - G]	1785	2647	4432
	<b>OUTCOME</b>			
<b>I</b>	ADOPTIONS	1062	2037	3099
<b>J</b>	TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS <i>to Organizations within Community/Coalition</i>	0	0	0
<b>K</b>	TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS <i>to Organizations outside Community/Coalition</i>	95	57	152
<b>L</b>	RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN	509	73	582
	<b>DOGS &amp; CATS EUTHANIZED</b>			
<b>M</b>	Healthy <i>(Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)</i>	0	0	0
<b>N</b>	Treatable - Rehabilitatable <i>(Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)</i>	0	0	0
<b>O</b>	Treatable - Manageable <i>(Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)</i>	0	0	0
<b>P</b>	Unhealthy & Untreatable <i>(Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)</i>	135	369	504
<b>Q</b>	Total Euthanasia [M + N + O + P]	135	369	504
<b>R</b>	Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	0	0	0
<b>S</b>	ADJUSTED TOTAL EUTHANASIA [Q minus R]	135	369	504
<b>T</b>	SUBTOTAL OUTCOMES [I + J + K + L + S] <i>Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable only)</i>	1801	2536	4337
<b>U</b>	DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER CARE	11	122	133
<b>V</b>	TOTAL OUTCOMES [T + U] <i>Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy &amp; Untreatable only)</i>	1812	2658	4470
<b>W</b>	ENDING SHELTER COUNT	96	424	520
<b>X</b>	<b>Annual Live Release Rate/Percentage [I + J + K + L]/ T x 100</b>	93%	85%	88%

# Adoption Programs

The animals that come to us desire one thing—a new home. Adoptions seven days a week at our main Berkmar Drive facility ensure everyone an opportunity to adopt a pet. Other adoption locations for cats include our Purrin' at Pantops center, the Rummage Store, and the Hollymead PetSmart. Additionally, we do off-site event adoption outings for both dogs and cats. Adoption specials and events throughout the year make the process fun and help animals find homes. As you can see from the chart below, increasing adoptions over the years has saved more animals.



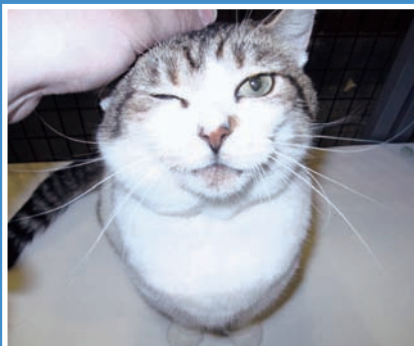
## Spay/Neuter Services

### 2008: A RECORD YEAR FOR SPAY/NEUTER

During 2008, the SPCA spayed and neutered a record number of animals, almost 6,000. The SPCA alters all animals prior to adoption and provides affordable and sometimes free spay/neuter services for residents that otherwise cannot afford this service. With special programs like the SPCA winter free cat spay, our feral cat spay/neuter clinics in partnership with Voices for Animals and our free pitbull spay/neuter program, the SPCA performed 879 surgeries free of charge. These spay/neuter efforts today will reduce the number of animals needing our care in the future.

Spay/Neuter surgeries of cats 3,997<sup>3</sup>  
 Spay/Neuter surgeries of dogs 1,967  
 Total Spay/Neuter surgeries 5,964

<sup>3</sup> Includes 705 free surgeries performed at feral cat clinics in partnership with Voices for Animals, a non-profit group, and local participating veterinarians.



# Medical Care

Caring for approximately 5,000 SPCA animals each year is no easy task, but our SPCA is fortunate enough to have a fully operational veterinary clinic. Vet assistants do an initial exam on all animals upon intake to assess their overall health and medical condition. They also administer vaccines, test for diseases such as heartworm and feline leukemia and medicate animals daily for various medical conditions. At the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009, we saw an increase in the number of critically injured animals with more serious medical needs. Some of these animals have been hit by cars, while others have come in severely neglected and emaciated. While it is always difficult when these cases come in, we feel very fortunate to have a veterinary clinic where we can address the needs of these animals immediately and in a cost-effective manner.



# Foster Care

In 2008, approximately 40% of the animals that came into the SPCA were placed in foster care for some period during their stay. The SPCA foster program continues to be one of the best in the nation and is a key component of our No Kill mission. Foster parents provide temporary care for kittens, puppies, cats, dogs or other animals that need extra time and attention before being placed in permanent, loving homes. It is in large part due to the dedication of our foster parents that the SPCA is able to maintain its No Kill mission.











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