

# Shelter SCENES

SUMMER 2023

**spca**  
cincinnati

11900 Conrey Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45249  
513-541-6100  
[spcacincinnati.org](http://spcacincinnati.org)

## LEADERSHIP

Mike Retzlaff, *President & CEO*  
Maria Miller, *Vice President,  
Donor Relations*  
Jennifer Smith, *DVM, Vice  
President of Medical Services*  
Denise Jones, *Director of  
Operations*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thomas W. Chatham, *Chair*  
Joelle Ragland, *Vice Chair*  
Peter A. Alpaugh, *Secretary*  
Chris Zimmerman, *Second  
Secretary*  
Sean Gibson, *CPA, Treasurer*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Bauman, *DVM*  
Barbara Boat, *PhD*  
Thom Brennaman  
Marie Catanzaro  
Michael Catanzaro  
Jo Goodman, *DVM*  
Anita Harney  
Adam Hock  
Jamie L. Horn  
Peter J. Kambelos, *M.D., F.A.C.P.*  
Karen Martin  
Shannah Morris  
Judy Recker  
Joseph Sanfillipo III  
Thomas R. Schiff  
Mary Ann Straley



## Meet Thor!

A young dog thrives despite setbacks...

*Read more about Thor's story inside*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Animal Friends,

This year, the **SPCA Cincinnati** is celebrating 150 years of service and dedication to its lifesaving mission of caring for animals. It is a milestone that our organization is proud of — we are the very first animal welfare organization of its kind in Ohio. The accomplishment comes by way of lots of learning, evolving and commitment to creating a better society for both families and their four-legged companions.

The **SPCA Cincinnati** provides many programs and services to the general public. Our humane society is the pet placement expert locally and across our nation. We partner with a variety of social service agencies to help keep pets in their current homes and improve their quality of life. The **SPCA Cincinnati** values innovative and educational strategies that enrich shelter life, promote humane treatment of all animals and prevent pet overpopulation.

In February 2023, the **SPCA Cincinnati** launched a new Humane Education program, partnering with **FamiliesFORWARD** and participating Cincinnati Public Schools: Carson Elementary, Hay-Porter Elementary, Bond Hill Academy, and Withrow High School. The **SPCA Cincinnati** provides animal encounter experiences and information for children in after-school programs. Elementary students learn about compassionate care for animals, including their needs and proper treatment. High schoolers learn about animal care as well as a variety of careers in the animal welfare field.

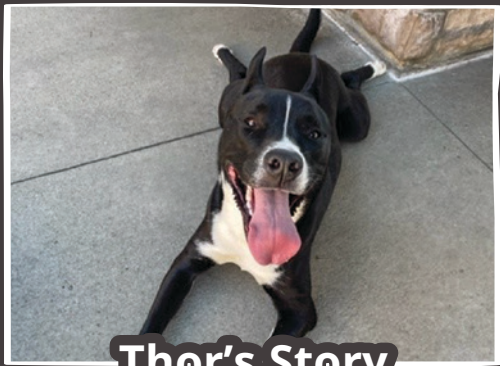
The **SPCA Cincinnati** continues to stay committed to offering the necessary programs and services that improve the world around us, and set up a promising future of a community built on kindness and respect for all living beings. We are dedicated to enriching and enhancing the lives of animals and people of our local community every day.

Thank you for choosing to make a difference. Thank you for helping the **SPCA Cincinnati** continue to be one of Cincinnati's hometown heroes, and a voice for the voiceless. Your dedication is critical to our mission and we are grateful for your support. On behalf of our Staff and Board of Trustees, I give my sincerest gratitude.

Warmly,



Mike Retzlaff  
President & CEO



## Thor's Story

Have you ever met a happy dog? An outgoing dog with a wonderful spirit and the ability to get along with other creatures? That's Thor! Thor is a young Husky and Shepherd mix. His disposition reminds you that animals have beautiful personalities that make it possible for people to form genuine, life-changing connections with them.

Thor came to the **SPCA Cincinnati** through our **Shelter2Shelter** program in August 2022, and was made immediately ready for adoption. After two months in the **SPCA Cincinnati**'s care, his adopter walked through our doors. Though he went home that day in October, he was returned a month later after his adopter was forced to move and surrender her pets.

But Thor kept his spirits high and proved to be a social butterfly and role model! Thor could be placed with any other dog and found a way to bring out the best in them — no matter how shy or timid.

Thor went home with another family in November but was sadly returned again in April; his personality simply did not align with the family. We understand this is a reality of the adoption process and our responsibility as true matchmakers for the animals in our care.

Thor's enthusiasm never wavered. On April 16, a family walked into the **SPCA Cincinnati** for a meet-and-greet with Thor and instantly noticed his love for life and welcomed him to the family.

Dogs like Thor deserve as many chances as it takes. Thor was an asset to our shelter while awaiting adoption, helping other dogs blossom. There are others like him, too — the silent heroes in our lifesaving mission who make a difference by surviving homelessness with hopeful hearts.

# Peanut Finds A Foster Family

Peanut arrived to the **SPCA Cincinnati** as a stray, weighing just 4½ lbs. and covered in fleas. It was very apparent that this old gal was sick and required medical attention right away.



Dr. Jennifer Smith, the **SPCA Cincinnati**'s VP of Medical Services, and her team quickly noted that Peanut was severely dehydrated, not eating and anemic. They treated for all of her symptoms,

especially working to get her iron levels up. However, as Peanut's internal parasites, flea bites and other symptoms improved, her overall health did not.

Peanut took a turn for the worse as her kidney and liver values began to rise. Despite her prognosis, our staff remained hopeful and diligent. Their efforts were not in vain as Peanut began to respond favorably to treatment. Her blood work started to appear normal and she gained weight, so Peanut was slowly tapered off immunosuppressant drugs. The next step was to place Peanut into foster care for additional enrichment and comfort.

Peanut proved to be a true fighter regardless of the odds set before her, including old age. She thrived while in the **SPCA Cincinnati**'s foster program and soon met a wonderful soul who gave her a place to call home during her golden years. Her adoption moved our entire organization.

Peanut is one example of how companion animals simply



## 150th Anniversary Homecoming

SAVE THE DATE

SPCA CINCINNATI  
SHARONVILLE

WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

[SPCACINCINNATI.ORG](http://SPCACINCINNATI.ORG)



need a fighting chance! We are their voice. Without the support of our community and the generosity of donors, our medical professionals would not be able to provide the lifesaving care required in Peanut's case. The exams, the medication, the therapy, the staff... it is all made possible by animal-loving individuals who give compassionately. The **SPCA Cincinnati** thanks Peanut's foster family, her adopter and our devoted medical team.



# Kahry & Coraline: A Pawsome Partnership



The **SPCA Cincinnati** hosts and participates in several adoption events throughout the year. It is an opportunity for pets in our care to receive up close affection and focused interactions with potential adopters.

At the end of 2022, we celebrated "Make A Dog's Day" with a community partner and brought along several companion animals who needed forever homes, one of whom happened to be a 5-year-old female Shiba Inu named Coraline. Coraline was found tied to our shelter door on a gloomy morning. The only thing left with Coraline was a note indicating someone had decided to surrender her to the **SPCA Cincinnati's** custody.

After our medical staff discovered that she had fleas and missing fur, they treated her and she was made available for adoption. Unbeknownst to the **SPCA Cincinnati**, a young woman by the name of Kahry Mapes spotted Coraline online before heading to the "Make A Dog's Day" event. Kahry decided she'd take the gamble and attend our

mobile adoption event in hopes that Coraline would be there.

When they met, Coraline was at ease with Kahry. When other potential adopters approached Coraline, she went right back to Kahry. Coraline went home with Kahry that day, leaving our hearts full!

The **SPCA Cincinnati** recently learned that since Coraline's adoption, she has become Kahry's official Emotional Support Animal. Coraline is happy, healthy and bringing so much joy to her new family. From abandonment to living a purposeful loving life, Coraline inspires us all to keep being a voice for the voiceless!



## Sheba's Furever Family

Sheba was surrendered to the **SPCA Cincinnati** on a cold winter day.



Fortunately, she spent only a week waiting to be adopted by a new family, and her parents called back to the shelter to inform us of her progress stating, "Sheba is adjusting well and seems to do very well with cats!"

Sheba enjoyed a good life for a long while, but

she was surrendered back to our care after seven years when her parents could no longer meet her needs.

This time around, Sheba was older and uncertain about her surroundings. We knew we had to act fast and find her the perfect match. We highlighted Sheba on our

social platforms and placed her in our Dunkin' Spotlight room for extra attention. Soon, Sheba found a loving couple and a new furever home to live out her golden years.

Sheba's new mom wrote to the **SPCA Cincinnati** recently. "Sheba is doing great," she writes. "She's such a sweetheart. She absolutely loves going for car rides and we are huge suckers for puppy dog eyes — so she gets to go on all of our errands. When she isn't on a walk at the park, one of her favorite things to do at home is sit outside with me and watch the kids play. We cannot say enough good things about our sweet Sheba."

Sheba's story proves that there is hope for second chances!

