

Celebrating 140 Years

The Delaware SPCA has been bringing people and pets together since 1873. This month, they are planning shelter open houses, special offers and a gala.



Do you have room in your heart or home for a kitten or two? Then visit then Delaware SPCA, the state's oldest continuously-operated animal welfare organization.

Photo courtesy hibuu

*by Robbie Tarpley Raffish
Community contributor*

It began with a small group of Delaware residents trying to protect the welfare of livestock in 1873 and by the early 1890s had expanded into dog control efforts in Wilmington. Over the decades the focus evolved with compassion and technology, until today, with literally hundreds of thousands of rescues to its credit, the Delaware SPCA is poised to celebrate its 140th anniversary as the First State's oldest, continuously-operated animal welfare organization.

The non-profit organization operates two shelters in Newark and Georgetown, with services that include humane law enforcement, sheltering and adoption of homeless animals, and low-cost vaccine clinics for the community. In addition, The Delaware SPCA operates the only two low-cost, high-volume, high-quality spay/neuter clinics in the state.

"Delaware SPCA is proud of our long tradition of connecting people with pets, which forms the underpinnings of our

mission to end animal homelessness and suffering at the source," said Al Mollica, executive director. "While methods have modernized and resources have broadened since 1873, our goal remains very similar to what it was 140 years ago – to prevent animal cruelty, homelessness and neglect, and to promote the humane treatment of animals in Delaware. We look forward to sharing our successes and plans with the public as we celebrate this milestone."

A number of special events and promotions are planned for the summer and fall to commemorate 140 years of helping animals. During the summer, The Delaware SPCA will host an open house at each of its shelters featuring \$18.73 adoption specials, free food, birthday cake, face painting, and door prizes. We also encourage people who have adopted pets from the Delaware SPCA to send in their photos and stories for display on our alumni wall of fame. Photos can be emailed to events@delspca.org or posted on Facebook/Delawarespca.

The fun continues in the fall with the "3rd Annual Bark on the Boards" to be held October 5 on the Rehoboth Beach boardwalk, a "fun-raiser" and fundraiser benefiting the organization. The event features a dog walk, pet competitions, refreshments, children's activities and more.

The climax of the anniversary celebration will be a gala event entitled "Canines on the Catwalk" featuring "haute

dogs and feline fashionistas” scheduled at the Greenville County Club on November 16. It will be an unforgettable night of tasteful delights, music, silent auction, prizes and a highly anticipated runway show featuring pets adopted through the Delaware SPCA and some seeking permanent homes.

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—Al Mollica, executive director.

“The math is very basic: the more resources we have, the more animals we can save so they can become part of people’s families,” said Mollica. “Canines on the Catwalk” offers an exciting and unique way to showcase a few of the thousands of success stories and also illustrate how vital the work of the Delaware SPCA is to the community. We are very excited to host the event at the Greenville Country Club this fall.”

Information about events and promotions is available at delspca.org or by calling 302-998-2281 x330.



How could you pass up a furry friend named Cherry Blossom?

Photo courtesy of the Delaware SPCA

140

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PRIMP YOUR PIT(BULL) THIS MONTH

The Delaware SPCA is offering a special promotion designed to celebrate the 140th anniversary this August with the return of “Primp Your Pit (bull).” This spay/neuter promotion, sponsored by PetSmart Charities®, provides spay/neuter services for pit bulls at a special \$20 rate, including a free nail trim. The promotion will be available at the Stanton and Georgetown shelters and is open to all residents of Delaware. Pit bull owners who wish to take advantage of this offer must mention the “Primp Your Pit” promotion when they schedule their appointment. Visit delspca.org for more information. —**Robbie Tarpley Raffish**

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Do you own a cutie like Cleopatra? Then be sure to take advantage of ‘Primp Your Pit.’

Photo courtesy of Delaware SPCA