

ASPCA® | ACTION

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The ASPCA® and the NYPD

*Working Together
to Save Lives*

It's a simple and symbiotic approach: The police respond to animal cruelty complaints in New York City and enforce the law, while the ASPCA® provides direct care for animal cruelty victims.

Since January 2014, the ASPCA and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) have been working side-by-side in a groundbreaking partnership that is saving more lives and helping more animals than ever before. From innovative new programs to real-life results, our collaboration is proving to be one of the most successful cruelty-prevention efforts in the entire nation, and we are thrilled to share an update on our progress.

AND THE NYPD

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES

A Pioneering Partnership

The ASPCA-NYPD partnership began with a four-month pilot program in the Bronx, at the end of 2013. Through this first-of-its-kind program, the NYPD took the lead role in responding to all animal cruelty complaints in New York City, while the ASPCA expanded its direct care for animal cruelty victims by providing critical support including forensic evaluations, medical treatment, behavior assessments, housing and placement, as well as backup legal support and training.



Matt Bershadker
ASPCA President
& CEO

“This historic partnership signals the seriousness of animal cruelty, as well this city’s dedication to stopping it.”

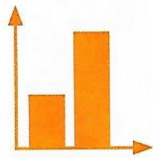
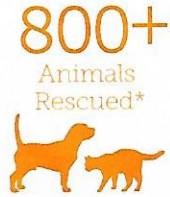
the NYPD protecting New York’s most vulnerable animals not only saves countless lives, but also signals the seriousness of animal cruelty and the need to prevent it,” said ASPCA President and CEO Matt Bershadker at the program’s launch. Given the NYPD’s tens of thousands of officers across 77 precincts, this alliance paved the way for accelerated and widened police response to animal abuse complaints while expanding the ASPCA’s ability to rescue and treat abused animals.

The First 18 Months: By the Numbers

The program’s first year-and-a-half saw record-breaking results: In 2014, there were 134 cruelty arrests by the NYPD and over 420 animals rescued and treated by the ASPCA, an increase of nearly 219 percent and 217 percent, respectively, over 2013. In the first six months of 2015, there were 85 animal cruelty arrests by the NYPD and over 421 animals treated by the ASPCA for a 28 percent and 115 percent increase, respectively, over 2014.

The increase was so significant, in fact, that the ASPCA was driven to expand its own internal operations to house and care for a growing number of cruelty victims. In May 2014, we announced plans to open the ASPCA Gloria Gurney Canine Annex for Recovery & Enrichment (CARE) Ward, which can house up to 42 dogs—50 during an emergency—seized by the NYPD as part of animal cruelty investigations. In November 2014, NYPD Commissioner William J. Bratton received the ASPCA’s Public Service Award on behalf of his department.

This broad, strategic collaboration was designed specifically to provide enhanced protection to New York City’s animals by leveraging the strength and expertise of both the NYPD and the ASPCA to amplify our collective impact. “Having the full force of



*JANUARY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

From the Field to the Classroom

Recognizing that our collaboration must go deeper than hands-on support and direct care for cruelty victims, the ASPCA is also working hard to share our 149 years of knowledge and expertise with the NYPD. Since the launch of our partnership, we have trained nearly 4,000 members of the NYPD who work in various bureaus of the department, including patrol, housing, transit, detective and legal. We have also trained first and second line supervisors, training sergeants and police recruits. These sessions highlight our historic partnership and include training on animal cruelty laws, forensic investigation, hoarding, blood sports and more.

In addition, we assisted the NYPD in the production of a training video that will be shown to members of the police department, starting with newly appointed police recruits. The training video encompasses all parts of the partnership and helps inform officers of appropriate steps when responding to and investigating an allegation of animal cruelty. The video includes speakers from the ASPCA's own Legal Advocacy department, our Forensics team, Cruelty Intervention Advocacy team and law enforcement liaison program, as well as police officers who have investigated these calls.

The ASPCA also created a dedicated 24-hour helpline for members of the police department who wish to speak to one of our law enforcement liaisons for guidance or answers. We have fielded more than 2,000 helpline calls to date.

Community Outreach

With more than 8 million people in New York City, the ASPCA and NYPD recognize that community involvement is critical to the overall success of this program. To that end, our Cruelty Intervention Advocacy team partnered with the NYPD for joint outreach events in all five boroughs, including the launch of "Operation Gimme Shelter" in Queens, New York.

Operation Gimme Shelter was born from NYPD reports about dogs left outside without proper shelter. Working on such cases together, the ASPCA learned that many pet owners lack the resources or knowledge to provide appropriate housing for pets. By connecting these pet parents with NYPD precincts, the ASPCA

King is one of the many cats helped by the ASPCA-NYPD partnership—learn more on page 14.



was able to provide free dog houses, ID tags, pet food, educational materials and behavioral support for dogs.

"Much of what we do involves building trust so pet owners understand that our goal is to help both them and their animals," says Allison Cardona, Senior Director of ASPCA Cruelty Intervention Advocacy. Additional "Community Pet Parties" have been hosted at NYPD Precincts in Brooklyn and the Bronx. These events invite pet parents to bring their animals for free vaccines, microchips and other resources.

Eight Million Voices for Animals

But community involvement need not be limited to special events. In July 2015, we announced an exciting new advancement in the ASPCA-NYPD partnership that involves every single New Yorker. For the first time ever, the NYPD Crime Stoppers Program—which allows the public to easily and anonymously provide information about crimes in the five boroughs—expanded to include cases of animal cruelty.

The Crime Stoppers Program offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for tips leading to an arrest and indictment; it has helped solve more than 5,300 violent crimes in New York City since its inception in 1983. We anticipate that the Crime Stoppers collaboration will be a critical tool to help the NYPD continue to solve animal cruelty cases in New York.

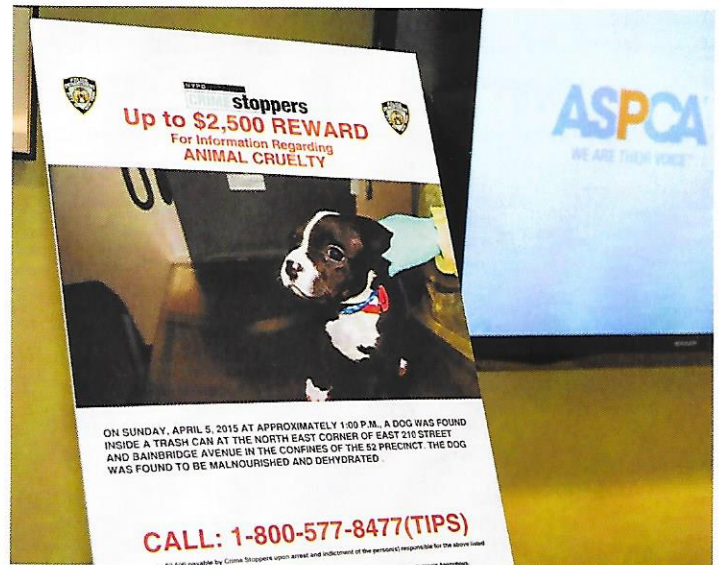
"Violence has no place in our city, whether it's committed against a person or an animal," said Commissioner Bratton at a press conference announcing the expansion. "We encourage you to call Crime Stoppers to help us in our fight against animal cruelty."

Citywide Impact, Statewide Implications

Although the program is still young, we believe that advancements made through the ASPCA-NYPD partnership can create a state-wide impact. In fact, our Legal Advocacy department is breaking new ground when it comes to cost-of-care laws for animals seized from cruelty.

Even after animal victims are no longer needed as evidence in a criminal case, they cannot be placed in new homes until they are either voluntarily relinquished by their owners or forfeited through a court order as part of the criminal sentence. Until then, the ASPCA cares for these animal victims (in areas outside of the city, humane societies, shelters and SPCAs provide this necessary service). Because criminal cases often take years to resolve, caring for these owned animal victims of cruelty can be a daunting financial burden, which can be particularly acute when a case involves the seizure of a large number of animals.

To help alleviate this burden, the ASPCA's Legal Advocacy team files petitions seeking reimbursement from defendants for our costs of caring for animals seized by the NYPD and litigates



these proceedings. In fact, since our partnership with the NYPD began, the Legal Advocacy team has successfully brought over 15 separate cost-of-care petitions and handled six related hearings.

Drawing on its experience in New York City, the Legal Advocacy team is also working closely with other humane organizations throughout the state to assist them in bringing their own cost-of-care petitions. Success with these petitions is key to ensuring that the ASPCA and other humane organizations around the state are able to continue the important work of caring for animals seized by law enforcement in connection with cruelty cases.

The Heart of the Partnership

The ASPCA-NYPD partnership goes deeper than laws, numbers and statistics. At its heart, the partnership is based on the real animals whose lives have been saved or improved through our collaboration—animals like Fraggie and King.

Fraggle's Story: In January 2015, Fraggie was zipped inside a suitcase and left for dead near a housing development in the Bronx, New York. Deprived of food and water, he was emaciated and near death when a Good Samaritan discovered him and notified the NYPD, which rescued the dog.

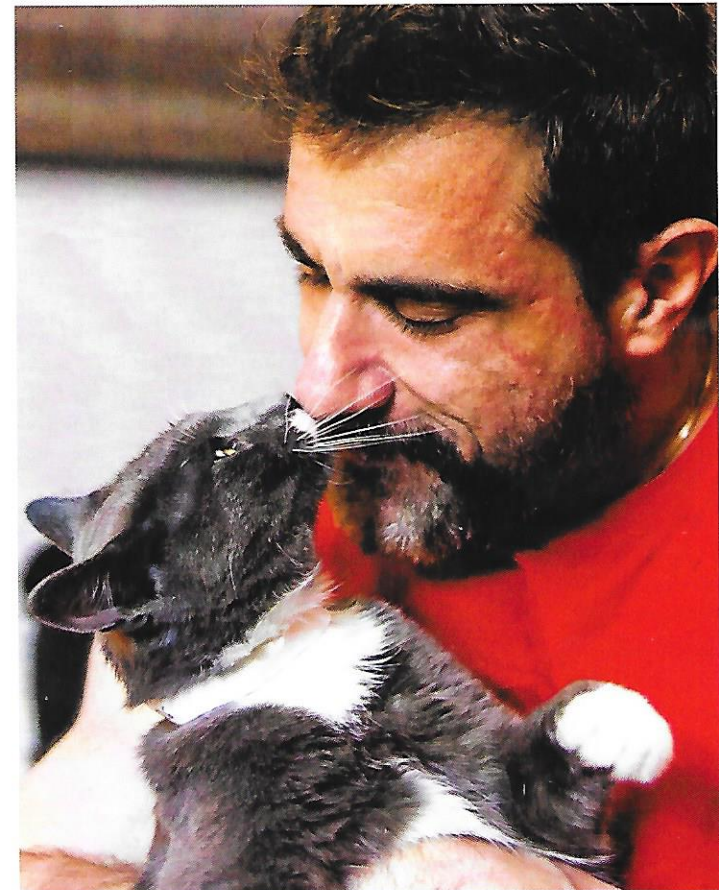
Over the course of three months, the ASPCA provided intensive medical and emotional care for Fraggie. After recovering, he was quickly adopted into a loving home, where he will never again suffer at the hands of abusers. The ASPCA and Crime Stoppers are currently offering a reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in Fraggie's case.

King's Story: After surviving a brutal kick, King the cat gained national attention when a video of his abuse surfaced on the Internet. Animal advocates alerted the authorities, leading to the arrest of King's kicker by the NYPD. The NYPD transported King to the ASPCA Animal Hospital, where he received medical care and spent more than four weeks recovering. The ASPCA then helped the sweet cat find the perfect adopter, who has promised to give King the "royal treatment" he deserves.

We are so proud of all that we have accomplished in the first 18 months of our partnership with the NYPD. Our incredible success thus far exemplifies what can be achieved when law enforcement and animal welfare groups collaborate, and we look forward to breaking new ground, inspiring greater good, and continuing to make a deep and lasting impact on the lives of animals.



Left for dead, Fraggie was in very serious condition when the NYPD transferred him to our care. Extensive medical treatment was necessary to address his extreme malnutrition and several other issues stemming from his compromised health.



After being brutally kicked, King was transported to the ASPCA Animal Hospital to undergo emergency veterinary care. He's now living like royalty in his new home.



Visit [aspcanet.org/fightcruelty](https://www.aspcanet.org/fightcruelty) to learn more about the breadth of the ASPCA's work to protect animals nationwide.