



VBSPCA
SPRING/SUMMER 2017

CREATURE CHRONICLES

A PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA BEACH SPCA

3040 HOLLAND ROAD, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23453 • WWW.VBSPCA.COM • (757) 427-0070



Message from the CEO

“At the VBSPCA, we make decisions based on each individual animal, rather than a goal to achieve a certain rate. We try to help as many animals as possible, while ensuring that each of these animals has quality of life and a life worth living.”

When my father was battling pancreatic cancer, he suffered through chemotherapy, radiation and surgery before being told there was no hope. By that time, his weight of 89 pounds on a 6'2" frame made him resemble a skeleton of his former self. He had endured unimaginable indignities, losing control of his bowel functions being the most humiliating for him. He was in terrible physical and mental pain, and he was only surviving by being fed through a tube inserted into his stomach. Still he lived several more weeks. The last few days, he was in a morphine-induced sleep. A nurse accidentally roused him at the end, and I witnessed the “throes of death.” With his eyes opened wide in panic, he was screaming and writhing in pain. It’s a memory that haunts me still, almost 25 years later. At the time, I couldn’t help thinking that we treat animals more humanely by offering euthanasia, which literally means “easy death.”

Few topics engender more heated debate in animal welfare than the subject of ending life. Some people believe that sustaining life is the most important goal, while others believe that there are fates worse than death. Whatever one’s conviction is, I imagine it is arrived at through as personal a reason as mine.

I often say that in animal welfare, we all want what is best for animals...we just sometimes disagree about what is best.

One of the questions I am most often asked is, “Are you a ‘no kill’ shelter?” I try to use the question as an opportunity for education. All shelters...even those that are “no kill”...euthanize animals when there is no hope for recovery.

Shelters may differ on what constitutes “no hope.” It can be a very difficult judgment call, and one that we do not take lightly. At the VBSPCA, we have a committee of eight professionals, including a veterinarian, that makes these decisions. No one takes these decisions more seriously than the professionals who must actually perform the euthanasias.

For our shelter, when there is no hope for what we would consider a good quality of life, we believe euthanasia is the most humane option. Others might disagree. As one example, we do not believe that keeping extremely aggressive animals that are not safe to live in the community alive in kennels indefinitely. For many dogs, it leads to mental deterioration, a condition we refer to as “cage crazy.”

A live release rate of 90% or more of the animals who enter a shelter is the current benchmark for a “no-kill” shelter. Of course the rate a shelter is able to achieve depends in large part on the animals that are accepted into the shelter. So comparing shelters based solely on euthanasia or live release rates, without taking into consideration shelters’ intake policies, can be very misleading.

For example, at the VBSPCA, most of the animals we take in are “owner surrendered” or transferred from other shelters. We do not generally accept stray adult dogs and cats. Instead, we direct strays to the public shelter where they must be kept on “stray hold” for a period of days to hopefully be reunited with their owners.

On the other hand, we have an agreement and partnership with the public shelter in Virginia Beach to take any unweaned puppies and kittens taken into their custody any time of day or night. We have volunteers who bottle feed and care for these babies until they are old enough for adoption. Many of the kittens are so sick by the time they come to us that they are not able to survive. This tends to make our feline euthanasia rate higher than shelters that do not accept unweaned kittens.

These are just a few examples of how intake policies affect outcomes.

At the VBSPCA, we make decisions based on each individual animal, rather than a goal to achieve a certain rate. We try to help as many animals as possible, while ensuring that each of these animals has quality of life and a life worth living. Our live release rate consistently hovers around 90%, which would technically meet the definition of “no kill,” but we do not use the term. And we never “kill.” Instead we offer suffering animals merciful deaths. Something my father didn’t have as an option.

We are so grateful for your support in furthering our mission to create a more humane and responsible community by eliminating animal suffering while increasing human compassion.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Dia DuVernet
President & CEO

Support the
animals today! Visit
www.vbspca.com



Partnerships

HSUS - Sister Shelter

In an effort to assist overwhelmed animal shelters of Puerto Rico, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Maddie's Fund® established the Sister Shelter Project to pair Puerto Rican shelters with thriving shelters in stateside U.S. The VBSPCA, a long-time HSUS Emergency Placement Partner, was selected to be part of this project.

Lacy Kuller, VBSPCA Vice President & CFO, and Jenny Teed, Director of Shelter Operations, traveled to Vieques Humane Society on the island of Vieques in February to provide mentorship, support, and hands-on problem solving and skill sharing. In April, HSUS flew Aleida Tolento and Sheila Burgos, of the Vieques Humane Society, to Virginia Beach to visit the VBSPCA shelter for a day.

In preparation for the visit, the Virginia Beach SPCA staff put together enrichment projects and operating procedures to help Vieques Humane Society further their mission of saving lives. During their time here, they visited College Park Elementary School to see the VBSPCA Humane Education program in action, followed by a tour of the VBSPCA main shelter on Holland Road. After lunch, the group headed over to Virginia Beach Animal Care and Adoption Center for a tour and finished out the day at the Virginia Beach SPCA Pet Supplies & Adoption Center.

This is the first time a program like the Sister Shelter Project will be carried out on this scale. It will set a precedent where rural and underserved communities in Puerto Rico and Stateside United States have resources and support from strong, knowledgeable animal shelters and animal welfare professionals. The Virginia Beach SPCA is honored to be part of this pilot program.



In April, VBSPCA took in nine dogs and six cats to provide desperately needed space in Puerto Rican shelters.

PETA

At the beginning of this year PETA fieldworkers found Pearl and Doc in rural Virginia in a county that has few animal services. Both dogs were kept outside 24/7. Pearl and Doc's former guardian owned 10 dogs and he genuinely felt guilty about having to keep the dogs penned outside. He relinquished Pearl and Doc to PETA and is accepting assistance to spay & neuter his remaining dogs.

Through the VBSPCA Pearl and Doc found a loving home together! Since 2004 VBSPCA has taken in 1,347 animals from PETA, many of which have medical needs. PETA provides the funding for these treatments to give the animals the best possible chance of finding a forever home.

We also partner throughout the year for adoption events where together, along with other local shelters, we encourage responsible pet ownership and bring public awareness to the programs offered throughout Hampton Roads.



Featured Product

insect shield
for pets



Visit our Pet Supplies & Adoption Center at 983 Providence Square Shopping Center in Virginia Beach!



Insect Shield Repellent apparel and gear for dogs are revolutionary products designed to provide longlasting, effective, and convenient insect protection for pets.

Insect Shield products incorporate the insect repellent permethrin, that lasts the expected lifetime of the product, repelling fleas, ticks, flies, and mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus. Our **VBSPCA Pet Supplies & Adoption Center** carries a wide range of Insect Shield products, including bandanas, blankets, and beds.



Our BEST Selling PRODUCTS

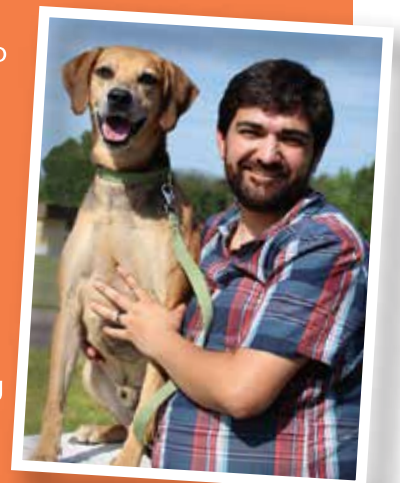


Tim's Tips for Training a Reliable Recall

One of the most important cues to teach any dog is "Come". However, a reliable recall proves to be one of the more difficult aspects of obedience training.

The 4 rules of recall

1. Never call your dog for anything unpleasant. Such as nail clipping, bathing, or having his leash clipped on to go home from the park. In short, anything that might make him pause the next time you call him.
2. Never call your dog if you are not sure he will come. All recalls should be successful recalls. Work at your dog's level: If he has a kindergarten-level recall, don't give him a graduate assignment like being called away from a cat in a tree.
3. If you call your dog and he doesn't come, you must make it happen. Run over to him and put a treat in front of his nose, backing up as you get his attention so he follows you. Resist the urge to call over and over. It only teaches your dog to tune out the command. Call once, then make the recall happen.
4. If you want your dog to stop whatever interesting doggie thing he is doing and come running to you, make it worth his while. Use extra yummy treats - no dry biscuits here! Or a well-thrown ball, if that is your dog's fancy.



Sign up for classes today!
HappyPawsTraining.org

Tim Molina is the Manager and Lead Trainer at Happy Paws, the VBSPCA's training center located in Kempsville across from Regent University.

Recall Classes are offered Tuesday evenings at 7:45 PM

For more information, visit HappyPawsTraining.org, call (757) 963-8661, or email Info@HappyPawsTraining.org

When to help:

- It is not normal for a baby to be sitting in the same spot for more than 15 minutes and may mean it is in trouble. Even fledglings (birds that are fully feathered, and look like small adults, but can't fly yet) should be very active, hop-flying through the yard. Although the parents may be present and feeding the baby, it still may be injured and in need of rescue. However, you must be careful not to remove babies from the wild unless you know they need help and are not just healthy youngsters learning to navigate on their own. Watch carefully to monitor if it is moving around or if there are parent birds interacting, (unless there is immediate danger).

- Any baby animal that is not fully covered with feathers or fur, or has pink skin showing through, should not be out of its nest and needs to be rescued. Never leave a sick or injured animal exposed in the yard. Get him inside to safety and get help.

- If there are predators present, or other immediate dangers such as children who may cause harm, you need to help the animal. Predators include cats, dogs, crows, bluejays, or other omnivorous birds that are attempting to cause harm. First try to remove the predator. Baby wildlife always do best with their parents.

- Animals who have visible blood or other obvious signs of trauma needs to be rescued quickly. The presence of flies or fly eggs means there may be blood or infection.

Wildlife Rehabilitation



Our wildlife team helped rescue a Bald Eagle in March. Dr. Diana Sandstrom, lead wildlife vet, and Barbara Gipson, Wildlife Director, triaged and stabilized the wing, so it could be transported to the Wildlife Center of Virginia.

Need Help?
Call our
Wildlife Referral Line
757-263-4762



If rescue is needed:

- You can use a shoe box for holding and transporting most wildlife. To pick up an animal you can, gently drop a cloth over the animal and scoop it up.

- Babies cannot retain body heat: Place a hand-towel or t-shirt in the dryer for a few minutes to get warm then place it under and around the baby.

- Keep the animal away from humans and other animals. Be sure to **never** give food or water, this could harm the animal. Get help ASAP.

For more information
visit vbspcawildlife.com



Making a Difference

**Our Foster program would not exist without our volunteers.
In this issue, we would like to spotlight one of our great foster families:**

Robey Family

"Our neighbor is a VBSPCA foster and our children fell in love with the idea of fostering and asked if we could become a VBSPCA foster family too. We started fostering puppies in November of 2016.

We recommend fostering to other families because it is FUN! The fostering experience is rewarding! Very often we get to witness the personalities of our puppies completely change during their time with us. Sometimes the puppies come to us scared or sad. Sometimes they don't even know how to play. With lots of attention and love, their cute little personalities begin to shine! Fostering is an amazing way to give back to our community!

Fostering puppies has given our family something very positive and fun to focus on! Our youngest daughter is in treatment for leukemia at CHKD. Pediatric cancer is a scary world to live in. These puppies have given all three of our children something to smile about everyday. It also provides our children with a healthy dose of chores and responsibility."

28
Puppies fostered
by the Robey Family
in 6 months!



Become a Foster

What is involved?

Supplies: We provide food, litter, bedding, toys, and other related supplies for your foster animals. We also provide counsel and medical care, when necessary.

Confinement: Keep your fosters inside and separate from your pets to protect both sets of animals. Don't feel bad about confining your fosters to your extra bathroom or bedroom – that is more space than they would have growing up in our shelter. Plus, it is also easier to litter box/potty train in a smaller space.

Time: Your commitment can be as little as one week; in some cases up to 10 weeks for the tiniest of kittens. With puppies and kittens you need to be prepared to bring them to the shelter once a week to weigh-in and undergo a wellness check and any pertinent vaccinations.

Emotional bond: When you have nurtured an animal for a period of time in your home, you will naturally form a bond with it. Please be aware that returning your fosters for adoption can be emotionally difficult for you and especially for children. Be sure to talk with your family members about the reasons for fostering and how your time with the animal will conclude. Sometimes foster parents end up adopting a foster animal, but please be aware that regular adoption procedures apply. Adoptions can only be facilitated by shelter staff.



From the comfort of your own home, you can help to make a difference for numerous animals in need. If you are interested in fostering, please contact Cat Walker, Foster Coordinator, to inquire about the next Foster Training session. She can be reached at 427-0070 x104 or by email at cat.walker@vbspca.com.





Western Wags & Whiskers

It was a Party on the Range, April 9th, at our Western Wags & Whiskers: Home on the Range Gala at Signature Flight Support. This event brought in nearly \$200,000 for the animals of the VBSPCA. Our heartfelt thanks go out to this year's co-chairs, Maria Ellmer and Emily Franklin, and designers Corinne Mastronardi and Damien Lombardi, whose vision made the night truly special for everyone in attendance. We would also like to thank the entire event committee, our sponsors, and our volunteers.



Guests entered past a barn, down a tree lined driveway, and into a vintage farmhouse. "Guava Jam" kicked off the evening with acoustic sounds while guests enjoyed a spectacular silent auction featuring unique packages. Our guests enjoyed fabulous food and cocktails by Chesapeake Bay Catering, Back Bay Brewing, and Tito's Handmade Vodka.



Allen Fabijan (Some Guy Named Allen) from US106.1, emceed, bringing enthusiasm and humor to the evening's program. The 2017 VBSPCA Lifesaver Award was presented to Ben Hancock, a longtime VBSPCA supporter, past Board member and current Honorary Board member and volunteer.

Ben Davenport showed off his auctioneering skills and worked the crowd for our Paddle Raise, during which attendees generously pledged over \$40,000 towards the care of the 4,000 animals anticipated to be sheltered at the VBSPCA this year. The evening continued as adoptable animals were then escorted by members of our community in our Dog & Cat Walk.



Guests also visited with adoptable baby bunnies in the garden, visited with adoptable dogs and cats and ended the evening dancing with "Guava Jam".



Whiskers: Home on the Range

We are deeply grateful to the following sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped make our Gala a success:



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For a list of Auction Donors and additional photos, please visit vbspca.com/westernwags.

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Tribute Gifts

Making a tribute gift is a special way to honor your loved ones while making a difference in the lives of homeless animals. For information about tribute gifts, planned giving, bequests, or capital campaign donations, contact our Vice President & CFO, Lacy Kuller, at lacy.kuller@vbस्पca.com

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"Copper" Mary Richardson	"Harley" Kathy Hobson	"Lily" Linda Fentress	"Ninu" Arlene Paolini	"Rocky" Laura Stanulis	"Somer" Claude Gregory
"Cosmo" Erin Ryan	"Harry" Blaine & Mary Denny	Patricia Stewart Lindemann John Steward	Meyera Oberndorf Joe Hoppel	Jean Rogan Patricia Irelan	"Spartan" Gene Soltner
"Cute" Charlene Sullins	Kathleen Hassen Roderick Bagtas City of VB Dept of Planning Zoning Admin	Laurie Loch Charles Barker Champions for Charity Inc.	"Oreo" Our SPCA cat Claude Gregory	Phyllis Rogan Jason & Lacy Kuller	"Spice" Melanie King
"Daisy" Gregg Cornetski	Betty Hazen Robert & Mary Elizabeth Biddle JoAnn Morse-Clough	Wanda Lee Lovejoy Bobby Abernathy Lake Smith Terrace Garden Club Jay Lovejoy Marla Nock Sally Prillaman	Michael Ormsby Georges Leblanc	Edna Rogerson Peggy Nelson	"Spot" Frank & Vikki Spruill
"Dapple Sauce" Carrie Stoneking	Kathi Heck George & Lori Elder	"Lucky" Dave & Micky Jester	"Otis" John Steward	Liz Rooke Harold & Barbara Rooke	"Sweety Ann Snyder" Justine Arnold
"Denny" Kathleen Shambo	George Henderson Susan Barnes	"Lucky" David Barto	"Peanut" Kathy Hobson	Vickie Rossman William & Linda Chin Data Business Systems Thetis Mitchell Chris & Kim Widmer	Ray Sye Joy King
Raymond Dorosh Rosemary Kelly	Christopher Aksel Heyden Jack & Barbra Stehlik	Lucy Dennis & Karen O'Meara	"Pei Pei" Pat & Carole O'Rourke	"Roux" Elizabeth Madden	"Tanqueray" Dorothy Perrell
Evelyn Duffy Allison Apperson	Lucille Howell Anna Commander	"Maggie" Elizabeth Howell	Royce Pendergrass Anthony Russo	"Roxie" Joy King	"Teagan" Phyllis Carroll
"Emmy" & "Maytryx" Leslie Sawyer	Eleni Howell Denise Finnance Home Helpers & Direct Link of Virginia Beach	Sylvester Maleski Jason & Lacy Kuller	Pennie" & "Digger" Michael Holohan	"Roxie" Gene Soltner	"Tebby" & "Tootie" Lisa Foster-Creelman
Floyd W. Evans, Jr. Floyd Evans	Tom Hunter William Bentley Michael & Kathie Maugeri	"Marley" Sheri Harris	Pepe" & "Tuck" Mike Fine	"Rudy" Jessica Wong	"Teddi Belle" Kim Gilkerson
Allen P. Fancher Joel & Jackey Bieber Debbie Billing Verna Brainard Martha Brantley Steven & Leigh-Anne Cade Gail Chopp Francis Costanza Billie & Doug Deese Paula Demosthenes Stuart Douglas Tom Fortenberry Laurie Francis Rene Gaiennie Jack Horne Talbot Huff Raymond King Pamela Lichtenstein Byron & Carolyn Nelson Lloyd & Rosemary Renstrom Elisabeth Rosenfeldt Ken & Shirley Sutton William & Christine Westendorf George Wigfall	Lewis T. Hunter Richard Miller	Eugene Maxey Mayton, Jr. Joe & Patti Giancola Patti Giancola, President, & VBAEOP Sisters Robert & Stacey Mazer	"Pepper Ann" David Dunn	Cathy A Russell Hairbenders Inc.	"Tela" Jamie Cato
Ruby Farrell Kettler International	Tom Hunter F. Edward Schrader	Carol McGee Larry & Pricilla Ayres Donna Boyle Linda Dew Scot & Lila Goodman Leslie Hamilton Cindy Pincus Jocelyn Pritchard James & Carol Skarbek John & Linda Taylor Gay Tiffany Claire Yoder	Marcy Pichel Dave & Micky Jester	Gloria Russell John Steward	Jack Tharp Aurora Lambricht
Nolan Fine Cindy-Jo Homer	"Irish" Deborah Shank	"Mele" Miriam Harris	Nancy Porter Maureen Bruno Kathleen Clemence Linda Cobb Linda Hunt Donna McPike Marie Parr Isabel Pollard Lori Porter-Kincer Karen Sutton The Virginia Beach Red Hatters Alice Volking Morisa Weiss Joy Wotherspoon	Maridare Ryan Peter Ryan	"Tiff" Libby Predmore
"Four Cats" Meredith Wicks	"Jack Schmitt" Cynthia Wilson		"Pepper Ann" David Dunn	"Sam" Kent & Nicole Kilby	"Tigger" John & Judith McClintock
"Fuji" Bob & Lisa Vickers	"Jack" Paula Nilsson		Jeffrey Potter Rebecca Hersey	"Sam", "Peanut", "Inky", & "Harvey" Meredith Wicks	"Toby" Gene Soltner
	"Jackie" Frank & Tonie Wilkins		Mary Lou Proctor Margaret Monroe	"Sammy" & "Lilly" Donna Grove	"Tuffy", "Iris", & "Brooke" Jason Ritter
	"Jacob" Edward Hanson		"Rascal" Barbara Hawthorne	Shirley Sanderlin Friends of Shirley Sanderlin Ron & Lenny Campbell Frank & Mary Lou Harris Ironclad Technology Services William & Scarlett Jennings Leslie Jennings Buddy & Monica McSwain Ray & Rena Putnam Ken & Missy Warhola Susan Wood	Norman Walton Susan Barco
	"Jean", "Thad", "Salena", & "Nash" Peggy Gagahan				Carolyn W. Williams & "Sophie" Gene & Missy Parker Donald Williams
	John L. Jelks Anita Jelks				Walter York Ruth York
	"Jesse" William Weiss				"Zeena" Tyrell & Charlotte Hamblin
	"Jilly Bean" Martha Heitzler				"Guiseppi (Peppy)" Jane Paez





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OPEN FOR ADOPTION SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!

HOURS OF OPERATION

Shelter Receiving Hours:

Mon-Thurs 12-5pm, Sat & Sun 10am-3pm

Shelter Adoption Hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs 12-6pm, Wed 2-6pm, Fri-Sun 10am-4pm

Pet Supplies & Adoption Center Hours:

Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 12-6pm

Check out www.vbspca.com, where adoptable animals' photos are updated regularly.

Critter Camps Are Offered In Two Locations

Date	Happy Paws	Shelter
June 19-23	Age 8-12*	Age 8-12
June 26-30	Age 8-12	Age 5-7
July 10-14	Age 5-7	Age 8-12
July 17-21	Age 8-12	Age 5-7
July 24-28	Age 5-7	Age 8-12
July 31-Aug 4	Age 8-12	Age 5-7
August 7-11	Age 5-7	Age 8-12
August 14-18	Age 8-12	Age 5-7
August 21-25	Age 5-7	Age 8-12
August 28-Sept 1	Age 8-12*	Age 8-12

Camps at Happy Paws also include swim time next door, at the YMCA!
Camps for older students include field trips to state parks and federal refuges.

vbspca.com/humane-education/critter-camp

*Jr. Dog Trainer, 1/2 Day Camp



DANCING FOR PAWS DANCE COMPETITION VBSPCA

**SATURDAY
JUNE 10th**
CHRYSLER HALL
7PM



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