

# CREATURE CHRONICLES

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE VIRGINIA BEACH SPCA



of the

VBSPCA,

spreading

compassion

throughout

community

keeping

pets like

PeDe in

loving

homes.

you are

Message from the CEO

I miss my new friend PeDe, but I'm glad he has gone back to his mom. PeDe is an energetic terrier who shared my office for a few weeks. PeDe danced on his hind legs behind the glass door whenever he saw me coming. He was always equally excited to see me, whether I had been

gone a whole evening, or just a few minutes. After lots of tail wagging and running around the office to welcome me back, he loved to

nestle in my lap and sleep while I worked at my computer.

PeDe wasn't relinquished to our shelter, and he was not available for adoption. He came to us through our H.O.P.E. (Help Out Pets Everywhere) Program for families who are experiencing temporary hardship.

PeDe has a loving family with his pet parent of three years, Viola Russell. One night, Ms. Russell was awakened by an electrical fire in her townhome. She was able to get PeDe out safely. Unfortunately, Craig the cat, PeDe's best friend, perished in the fire.

Displaced from her home where she had lived for 28 years and mourning the loss of her cat, Ms. Russell didn't know what to do. She checked into a hotel, but they wouldn't take PeDe. She researched boarding facilities, but she was not able to afford the cost.

No one she turned to for help could offer any solutions or resources for keeping PeDe with her. Many even encouraged her to give-up PeDe, until luckily someone suggested she contact the VBSPCA.

Ms. Russell was relieved to speak with our H.O.P.E. Coordinator, Amanda Dunlap, who offered compassion, support and a plan for PeDe to stay at the shelter temporarily. Ms. Russell told me, "Amanda was so concerned. Everyone else was telling me there was nothing

that could be done. She was on my side. It was a delight. It made it so much easier to handle the other situation I was going through."

Knowing that PeDe was safe and in good care for a few weeks gave Ms. Russell the time she needed to get back on her feet. While PeDe stayed at the VBSPCA, Ms. Russell found temporary pet-friendly housing and began the process of getting her home repaired.

> The day Ms. Russell came to pick-up PeDe was a bittersweet day for me. I was sad to see PeDe go, but so happy to see the two of them reunited. The dancing and tail wagging PeDe had done for me was nothing compared to his performance when he saw Ms. Russell appear at the door.

> The Russells are a perfect example of the benefit of H.O.P.E. The program helps keep beloved pets with their families whenever possible, rather than seeing them become permanently separated in times of

Providing foster care for pets of people temporarily residing in places that do not allow pets, such as domestic violence shelters, is just one of the ways we work to prevent pets from being relinquished. We also offer a pet food pantry and reduced veterinary fees for those who qualify.

PeDe and Ms. Russell will move back into their newly-renovated home soon. As a friend of the VBSPCA, you are spreading compassion throughout our community and keeping pets like PeDe in loving homes. Thank you for your

Dia DuVernet CEO

**Volunteer Spotlight - Renee Bass** 

no enee has been a volunteer since February 2014. As an active-duty military member, Renee has limited spare time. However, she insists on spending it with the VBSPCA cats and kittens, and we couldn't be happier about that! She is an adamant cat lover who assists our Cat Adoption Volunteer Team at the Petsmart in Landstown Commons. She transports kitties to and from the facility, while helping oversee the cats at the center, tending to them daily, and finding them purrfect new homes. She also assists in the Cattery at the shelter when she is able, and acts as the Volunteer Coordinator for weekly Navy SARP (Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program) volunteer group visits. She even drags her family along to help move supplies at the shelter early on Saturday mornings. But it doesn't stop there! Renee began fostering only 9 months ago, and has already

provided love and care to more than 20 teeny kittens for the VBSPCA. Renee is such a positive and

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sweet soul, and we are beyond lucky to have her!

**Happy Tails** 

# Raylan

When Raylan's family met him at the VBSPCA, it was his second time in the shelter. As a 2-year-old Australian Shepherd, the staff knew that he needed a special family; one who would be able to provide him with the active lifestyle he craved. Luckily, he found his perfect match. He now spends his days hiking, camping, or longboarding, and his nights

are spent cuddling on the couch. Raylan's mom says, "He is smart, sweet, very loving, protective, and very playful. He loves all the playtime he gets with other animals and is a star student at doggy daycare. He



is my right-hand man and is the best camping partner I have ever known. He has added a great deal to my life as well as my boyfriend's and we are so happy we all found each other that day. We love him so much and enjoy seeing him light up any time we go on a new adventure." Keep loving life, Raylan!

## Roxanne

When Roxanne arrived at the VBSPCA, she was very scared. She was immediately sent to our Pet Supplies and Adoption Center, where she received personalized attention and learned to come out of her shell. After three months, Roxanne met the new family of her dreams. Here's her story, in her new mom's words:

"We met Roxanne through fate. We had to park in front of Providence Square VBSPCA due to lack of parking spaces in front of Kroger. We had no intention of going into the store, but decided to do so since it was in front of us. We were immediately attracted to Roxanne because of her sad and heartbroken expression.

Since her adoption, Roxanne has brought so much joy and happiness into our lives. She's very intelligent (teaching us the commands she already knows). She's very playful and whimsical!!! She loves her squeaky toys, playing football and frisbee and riding in HER convertible.



To her, family is everything. We all play together, go to bed at the same time and wake up at the same time. It's like "One for all and all for one".



She is so AWESOME and HAPPY!!! WE LOVE ROXANNE RENEE WILLIAMS!!!

We are so thankful fate brought us together. Thank you to the staff at Providence Square VBSPCA for taking care of Roxanne through her transition to a NEW Family. She established a great relationship with all of you and loves to come and visit with you. All of you share a great bond with her."

Support the animals today! Visit www.vbspca.com



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# Sign the Pledge

# **Mark your Calendar**

She'd be lost without you. Pledge to keep your cat indoors.

# **VBSPCA**

vbspca.com/KeepCatsIndoors



Join the Virginia Beach SPCA and actor Terry O'Quinn (from the hit TV series LOST) in taking the pledge to keep your cat indoors.

### **Top 10 Reasons to Keep Your Cat Indoors:**

- 1. There is a significant chance that your cat may be run over by a car.
- 2. Predators (dog, raccoons, coyotes, other cats, birds of prey) may harm cats.
- 3. Not all humans have the best intentions and may be cruel to your cat.
- 4. Cats can be exposed to diseases like leukemia, feline AIDS, and rabies.
- 5. An unspayed cat can have 2-3 litters a year and over 100 kittens in her lifetime, thus exacerbating the overpopulation issue.
- 6. Even with proper identification, your cat may wander off or go missing.
- 7. Cats have a predatory nature and can kill wildlife.
- 8. Cats may carry the T. gondii parasite leading to Toxoplasmosis and are responsible for other public health concerns.
- 9. In the City of Virginia Beach it is not legal to allow your cat to roam at large.
- 10. Outdoor cats have shorter lives. According to vetinfo.com, the average life expectancy of indoor cats is between twelve and fifteen years. A cat that lives predominantly indoors but spends time outdoors may live on average two to three fewer years than a cat that lives exclusively indoors. Outdoor stray and feral cats live significantly shorter lives. On average, a stray cat lives five years in a community of cats and two to three years if alone.



Take the pledge to keep cats safe, and we will send you a coupon for our Pet Supplies & Adoption Center!

# 5K Run & Walk for the Animals

Grab your leash and hit the beach! Participate in the 5K Run (dogs and walkers welcome!), shop with our vendors, visit our "Ask the Trainer" booth, play games in our Kid's Corner, or participate in our 1-Mile "Pack Walk"; all while showing your support for the animals!

Dogs are welcome to attend as long as they are on a leash, well-behaved and not in heat. Please leave your feline family members at home; but definitely run, walk or fundraise in their honor!

Questions? Contact **events@vbspca.com** or **(757) 427-0070 x145** 

## Will you help us go the extra mile?



By creating a fundraising page on **FirstGiving.com/VBSPCA/5kwalk**, you can go even further to help support the animals of the VBSPCA, while earning prizes for your efforts. You can easily share your page with friends, family, and coworkers.

It's a simple and easy way to spread the word and raise even more funds.

Hey, what's a little competition among friends?



# **Support the VBSPCA!**

Remember the Virginia Beach SPCA when you are giving at

work! We are so appreciative of the generous individuals who donate a portion of their paycheck to support the VBSPCA through United Way!

Use these codes when giving to the following:

- Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) 3933
- Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) 8082
- Combined Charities Campaign (CCC) 8002

Easy, right? Your workplace giving will make a tremendous difference in the lives of the animals we serve.



Support the animals today! Visit www.vbspca.com





# **VBSPCA Salutes the Military**

# Family Gives Back in Honor of Fallen Sailor

On January 8, 2014, Cheyenne Collins heard the news that every military spouse fears. After only a year of marriage, her husband, Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian Collins, had been killed. A helicopter crash during a training exercise off the Virginia coast claimed the lives of Brian and two others.



Cheyenne describes Brian as the kind of person who drew people in. He was the silly, energetic guy who organized after-work outings to the local trampoline park and loved being outdoors. They met through mutual friends in their hometown of Truckee, California. Cheyenne, a professional ballet and modern dancer, moved to Norfolk after they were married. Soon they decided to expand their family, adopting a puppy they named Kali.

After Brian's death, Cheyenne and the Collins family knew that they wanted to give back to organizations that meant something to Brian. The Virginia Beach SPCA was an honored

recipient of a donation in Brian's memory. "His family, we're all just animal lovers," Cheyenne explained.

Cheyenne smiles when she speaks of her husband. "He was always so positive about life...He was the best, and so selfless, and had this smile that lit up the room." Brian's spirit and exuberance for life will live on in the countless animals whose lives were affected by this donation in his memory.

Giving a donation in memory, or honor, of your loved ones serves as a thoughtful tribute. These generous gestures help us to carry out our

mission of creating a more humane and responsible community by decreasing our tolerance for cruelty while increasing our capacity for compassion. If you'd like to make a memorial donation today, you may do so by filling out the gift envelope in this newsletter, or by visiting our website at **vbspca.com**.



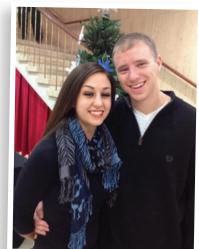
Mack, a high-energy 10-month-old American Staffordshire Terrier mix, had been at the VBSPCA for almost two months when he caught the eye of Hampton Roads Hounds



for Heroes. Founded by Linda McAbee, it is the mission of Hounds for Heroes to pair trained service, therapy, or companion dogs with local veterans who have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Hounds for Heroes pulls their service dogs in the service dogs in the service dogs.

Stress Disorder. Hounds for Heroes pulls their service-dogs-in-training, like Mack, from local shelters and names them after service members who have lost their battle with PTSD. Mack is now named Mike. His namesake, HT1 Michael Sahlberg, lost his battle with PTSD in 2014 at the age of 32. He was a loving husband and stepfather who enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Mike will carry Michael Sahlberg's

name with honor as he steps into a new chapter of his life. His intelligence and affection will help him to provide comfort and companionship to a veteran suffering from PTSD. At the VBSPCA, we think all of the animals we care for are special and we are thrilled that Mike has found his own place in the world.





# The Comfort of a VBSPCA Pet Therapy Visit Everyone faces difficult life circumstances. Struggles are a part of life. However, some pe

Everyone faces difficult life circumstances. Struggles are a part of life. However, some people's struggles seem unimaginable. But the comfort of a soft, calm, floppy-eared, non-judgmental being can help someone begin to take the proper steps toward healing. That is exactly why The Virginia Beach SPCA began working so closely with the Navy Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP) at the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, VA 6 years ago.

The VBSPCA has offered pet-assisted therapy for nearly a half-decade. When the program started, pet therapy animals predominately visited retirement communities and nursing homes. As the organization thought about other populations in need of this kind of affection and attention, we decided that the Navy's SARP Program was right in line with the VBSPCA's mission. After the first few visits, VBSPCA volunteers and pet therapy dogs became a huge hit with the rotating population of SARP Program attendees.

According to its official website, SARP aims to help "...active duty personnel from various services as well as civilian employees, retired personnel, and military family members," by providing, "...outreach training to commands and organizations within the Hampton Roads Area, substance abuse or gambling screenings, and to conduct Early Intervention Alcohol Treatment as needed."

"Some of these guys really 'play it cool' during the treatment program, but as soon as a sweet, fluffy face walks through our door you can see how soft and compassionate these guys are," says Ashley Parker, SARP Coordinator and the VBSPCA's lead point-of-contact for Pet Therapy visits. "Most of the time, the animal visits just allow the guys a mental escape from their current circumstances." Parker has noticed that it is empowering for them to have an unprejudiced, warm, tolerant body present to help the attendees move forward in the path of healing.

Plain and simple...that is what the Virginia Beach SPCA is all about...creating communities with an increased capacity for compassion and a decreased tolerance for cruelty, one step at a time.

# 

- Set aside money for veterinary care in case of an emergency. Consider pet insurance.
- If you rent or live in base housing, be aware of any breed, size, or quantity limitations.
- Make sure your pet's vaccines are always up-to-date, and keep a copy of their records with your other important documents.
- Make sure that all microchips and ID tags include current contact information.
- Prepare in advance for expenses and time required to move your pets during a PCS.
- Have a plan in place for where your pet will live in case of deployment. Organizations like Dogs on Deployment offer temporary foster homes for deployed service members, but space is limited so this should be a last resort. Confirm your plan well in advance!
- · If you cannot meet the demands, cost and commitment of pet ownership, consider fostering!

# **Pets for Patriots**



The VBSPCA is committed to finding **forever** homes for the animals in our care and strives to provide the education and resources necessary to make perfect matches. We are proud to partner with **Pets for Patriots**, a nonprofit organization that helps to connect shelter animals with veterans at any stage in their careers. Eligible pets are adult (age 2+) or special needs dogs or cats, or dogs over 40 lbs. Adoption through the Pets for Patriots program comes with many perks: a 10% discount on adoption fees, a gift card from Pets for Patriots to purchase pet supplies, Pets for Patriots discounts, and access to our low-cost medical clinic for the life of the adopted pet.



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# **Round of A-Paws**

**Around the Shelter** 

We are blown away by the **Stone Family**! In July they sponsored adoption fees and medical treatment for 22 shelter animals! They really made a difference in helping those critters find their forever homes!



We love Critter Camper Ysabel Wells! Since meeting a heartworm positive dog in camp last summer, Ysabel has donated money from her piggy bank and held her own fundraisers to contribute toward the care of heartworm positive dogs at the shelter. It's

kids like Ysabel who truly make a difference in the world!

Shout-out to **Zach Novak** for creating and customizing a NEW volunteer sign-in database and donating a newer, nicer laptop just for the volunteers!

What would we do without **Autumn Eustis**? Autumn designed an adorable banner for the revamp of our e-newsletter, the Best Friends Bulletin! She also contributes feature articles that appear in your email inbox monthly. Thanks, Autumn!

Three cheers for our fantastic team of **Wildlife Volunteers**! They work tirelessly fielding hotline calls and rescuing, transporting and rehabilitating injured or displaced wildlife.

We love the American Music Festival Beer Pourers, who braved the Labor Day beach crowds to sling drinks and raise over \$7000 for the animals!

Our senior dogs are so grateful to the **Grey Muzzle Organization** for a \$5000 grant to help with medical fees and adoptions of our older canine friends!

Thank you so much to **Dominion Enterprises** for sending 10 awesome volunteers on the United Way Day of Caring Day 2015! The

team was pleasant and efficient...and an overall BLAST to work with while we tackled our offsite storage units. Thank you again!



# **Volunteer Orientation**

Thursdays @ 6:15PM

October 15 December 3 January 21 February 18

March 17

\*Check **vbspca.com/calendar** for more dates! RSVP: **volunteer@vbspca.com** 

# **Junior Volunteer Award**



Thanks to the Sharon Q. Adams Humane Education Fund, the VBSPCA was able to award its first Junior Volunteer Award to **Estelle Teske!** Estelle has been a Junior Volunteer ("JV") with the VBSPCA since 2010. She has contributed a remarkable 431 hours of valuable service to our organization.

To be a successful JV one needs to not only be hard working, dedicated, and friendly, but also very compassionate. It is tough work, both physically and emotionally, and there is a high turnover rate among JVs. Despite the stressful environment, Estelle came in consistently for assigned shifts as well as when we needed extra help. Estelle demonstrated leadership abilities and rose through the ranks to become one of the original five JVs to earn the highest promotion in our tiered system, Black Shirt JV. At this level, JVs work on par with staff.

Estelle's compassion for animals extends well beyond the shelter walls. She fosters shelter animals in her home and often participates in off-site events and fundraisers.

Estelle is a wonderful ambassador for animal welfare and her devotion is admirable. By her example, she is instilling such values in her younger sibling who attends functions with Estelle, and assists with fostering.

Estelle is an amazing young woman, who truly deserved this recognition of her service to the animal welfare community. We shall miss her as she heads off for college, however, Estelle has assured us she will return next summer as an adult volunteer!

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# **Featured Product**



BOCCE'S

Are you on the hunt for organic, all-natural, healthy treats for your dog? Look no further than the VBSPCA Pet Supplies & Adoption Center!

Our location in Providence Square Shopping Center is the exclusive Hampton Roads retailer of **Bocce's Bakery** dog treats. They're wheat-free and baked in small batches. No weird ingredients, just 100% delicious! Stop by and grab a few bags – your dog will thank you!



Mention the fall newsletterand get 10% off one bag ofBocce's Bakery treats!

\*Offer only valid at Providence Square location.

# Fun at Critter Camp:













Support the animals today! Visit www.vbspca.com



# **In Loving Memory**

On July 30, 2015 the Virginia Beach SPCA lost an impassioned friend. Joe DiJulio's leadership, compassion, and friendship have left a significant and lasting impression on our organization and the animals in our care. In his 13 year tenure on our Board of Directors, Joe served as Secretary, Vice President and President. We are better because of our time spent with him, and he will be





We are honored to have received gifts in memory of Joe DiJulio from the following donors:

Andrew & Maureen Hook
Angela Blue
Angie Cosimano
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Anthony & Luella Ricci
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Susan Anderson

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Harriet Woodhou

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Michael & Kathleen

Nicole Dignazio

Pat Dunthorn Stephen Stone

Roderick Ham Katherine Callaway

David & Joy Parker

Sandra Canena

Robert Whipkey

Vicki Nyberg Brenda Cook

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"Brandy" Barbara West

Nancy Doumar

Laney Frederick

James & Betty Temple

Tracey Young

"Freya" Tracey Young

Moigan Tos

"Lenny" & "Molly" William Shanley

"Maggie" James Gentry

Elizabeth Morrison

Robin Wooddell

"Tonka", "Tiger", & "Honey My Sisters' Garden

Buck & Sharon Cummings Tony & Colleen Dawsor

Gary Davis

Baby Cathy Robb John Steward

Gayle Nelson Christy Henson & Christopher Jill Wallace

Alison Fechino Amanda Dunlar Amanda Insetta Patricia Marshall

Dia DuVernet "Chance" & "Railey Jenny Teed Don & Phyllis Arth Jessié Comba Joy Eyrolles Kathleen Shambo John Steward Peggy Taylor

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lanet Aslett

Fileen Giese Koch

Herbert R. Shelton

Linda Shelton

Michelle Evans

Mary Vaughan

Megan Hartman & Tim

Sam Dennis & Momma

Henry Wayland

Nancy & Steve Mo Tommie & Mike Old

Yuen Hinson

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"Angel" & "Tara" Daniel & Heather

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Gene Soltner

Patricia Neunz

"Ava" & "Gabriella" Hudgi

Blaine & Mary Denny

Peggy Winn

"Brittany" Millie Duboss

June Lockwood

Capital Group Co Charitable

Gustaaf Giese Koch

"Chief & Sparky" Mary Williams Elizabeth Aucamp Joel & Stacy Hock

Susan Lineberry Barbara Mayes

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Joe & Ada Bradshaw

Peg Leopold

Roberta Wilsey

"Cocoa" Meg Barry

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Barbara Lunn "Gizmo" & "Q-Tip Arlene Paolini

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Gary Archibald

Judith Midgett Brenda & Thomas Staab

Nancy Porter

Sandy" Kimberly Marshall Susan King

John & Diana Domanski Susanna Dellinge Lee & Anne Smith

Colette & Mark Booher

Rosalee lewell

Nancy Porter Karen Vess

Lenka Girtelschmid

"Sophie" Mary Knox

Nelia Sarno

Kathrvn Byler

Glenn & Delores Gray Jack & Ellen Jackson Judith Wilder Judy Fllis Wayne & Theresa Sawyer

Madeleine Jordan & Harriet

ames Stick & "Becca

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Tammy James John Skvarla

Joseph & Joan Neely

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William & Margaret Reed Jeanne Hughes

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"Peanut" Phillipe & Barbara

Margaret Field Puppy Roger & Barbara

Caroline Carroll Tamara Bowyer Mary-Whitley Haycox

Carolyn White Acredale Preservation Civic Nancy Carter "Ripley" & "Roddenberry

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Daryl Williams

Mickey Delia Denise Maples

parky II" Jodha Goodman

"Tasha" Ruth York

Gene Soltner

Wayne & Jean Ford

Marilyn Haugen

Vinnie" & "Jake" William Andrews

Mike & Kathleen Miller

Libby Predmore & Ellen

Robert & Josie Collier

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Loan Closet & Airman's

Donald & Patricia Gattshall

Abe Kritz

Alan Meek

Alicia Cooke

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Elizabeth Wardrup

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Sumi-e Society of America William Van Nostrand

Anne Henry Coletta Williams Donna & Ron Snyder Mary & Dan Tabor

William Wirt Moore III Michael & Susan

Frank & Mary Schulte

Making a tribute gift is a special way to honor your loved one while making a difference in the lives of homeless animals, tribute gifts, planned capital campaign donations, contact our Senior Director o joy.eyrolles@vbspca.com

**THIS REPORT ACKNOWLEDGES HONOR & MEMORIA GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN** JUNE 1-AUG 31, 2015

Support the animals today! Visit www.vbspca.com



Georgia Christie

& Staff

George L. Rodriguez, M.D.



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### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

**Shelter Receiving Hours:** 

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

**Shelter Adoption Hours:** 

Mon-Thurs 12-6pm, Fri 1-4pm, Sat & 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.



Skylar was brought to the VBSPCA with chemical burns all over her back and neck. Thanks to support from our donors, she received the medical care she so desperately needed.

Please use the enclosed envelope to give a gift to the VBSPCA so that other animals in need, like Skylar, will receive the care they deserve.