



VBSPCA

MARCH 2019

Western Wags
& Whiskers Gala
**Rhinestone
Cowboy**

Grandy

Wildlife & Humane
Education Fund

VBSPCA
Pet Academy
New And Improved
Pet Training Program

**CREATURE
CHRONICLES**



VBSPCA

Western Wags & Whiskers Gala

Join the Virginia Beach SPCA for the annual Western Wags and Whiskers Gala! This year's theme is Rhinestone Cowboy, so get out your glitz and glam and prepare for a rhinestone studded night to benefit the animals. The event takes place at the Cavalier Golf & Yacht Club on Saturday March 30th, 2019. Round up your friends for a night of delicious food and drink, a bounty of exciting silent auction items, live music by Buckshot, dancing, and - of course - adorable animals. Over 300 guests will come together from across Hampton Roads for this one of a kind celebration, making the difference in the lives of thousands of animals in Hampton Roads.

Saturday, March 30th
7pm-11pm

Registration Opens at 6:30

Cavalier Golf & Yacht Club
1052 Cardinal Rd. Virginia Beach

Attire: Boots and Bling

More information and tickets
are available at vbspca.com/gala



Letter From Derby Brackett



The adage that time flies has never been more true than during these past 6 months. I blinked and we went from October to March! It has been an eventful time for us and a truly rewarding time for our animal friends.

In October, we successfully raised \$30,000 at our 40th annual Mutt Masquerade. We joined our fellow walkers and runners - two and four legged - at 24th Street Park for a day of fitness, food,

AND fun. After the race, we enjoyed great costumes and camaraderie at Abbey Road for brunch. The weather was gorgeous, and we were thrilled to see so many loyal members of our community come out in support of our animal care and operations. Our next Mutt Masquerade is scheduled for October 27th, 2019, and we hope you will plan to be part of the fun, whether walking, running, eating, or simply observing.

Once our annual 5k was over, it was full steam ahead for the holidays. We work hard 365 days a year to find homes for our animals, but the holidays bring special meaning to those needing a loving forever home. In partnership with Priority Automotive and in collaboration with the Norfolk SPCA and Chesapeake Animal Services, we had another successful Home for the Holidays adoption event. Together we adopted out 315 deserving animals, just in time to spend the holidays in warm homes with loving families. The VBSPCA shelter alone saw nearly 4,000 customers during the month of December - a truly magical time of year!

We finished the year strong with over 3,500 animals placed as permanent family members or into qualified rescue organizations. Our focus continues to be on providing the greatest care for the animals that come through our doors and identifying the best possible solution for their next home. Our main goal is to provide our animals with short term accommodations, enrichment, loving engagement with staff and public, and healing care through our highly qualified clinic, resulting in successful and sustainable adoptions. Our staff includes an experienced animal behaviorist who works closely with animals and adopters to be sure that we have the right fit. In addition, we have successfully introduced our new VBSPCA Pet Academy on site at the shelter, allowing us to offer pet training to the public. We have puppy classes, dog classes, and specialty classes on the schedule, giving us the opportunity to keep pets in homes by strengthening the bond between pets and pet parents. We've also continued to grow our retail selection to offer our new animal owners and longer term patrons the best solution in dog and cat enrichment toys, treats, attire, collars, leads, housing, and more! These initiatives help ensure that every customer leaves with the right equipment and training to successfully acclimate their latest family member in their home.

As we look toward Spring, we can also look forward to new cattery cages and condos for our feline residents. Thanks to a generous grant from the Alfred L. Nicholson Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, our cats will move into new housing with more room and improved ventilation. We are also looking at making dog yard improvements that will provide our dogs with more quality outdoor time and give our puppies a new puppy play yard. Finally, we are updating our post operation cages and installing new cages with broader space for our animals recuperating in the clinic. Moving forward, we'll continue to focus on areas of improvement to better serve the animals in our existing space while balancing innovation, facilities planning, and funding.

Lastly, I hope to see you at our Western Wags & Whiskers Gala on March 30th at the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club. Our theme this year is Rhinestone Cowboy, and I am looking forward to the glitz, glam, and camaraderie of the evening. This is a special occasion where we can celebrate you, a cherished member of the community who makes all of this possible, and the animals who have benefitted from your kindness.

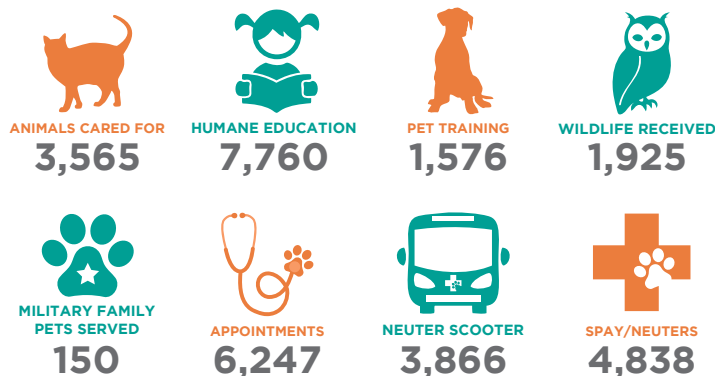
As always, thank you for caring about our mission and for continuing to make our initiatives possible.

With gratitude,

Derby D. Brackett
CEO



We are proud of our 2018 impact.





THROUGH THE FIRE

“Even after his traumatic ordeal, Nelson is still incredibly sweet and has an infectious purr.”

When Nelson first arrived at the VBSPCA, he caught everyone's attention. He had been in an accident, and he was covered in burn wounds with open sores on his ears and neck. His hair had been singed, and there were patches that had turned white. His previous owner could no longer cover the medical costs associated with recovery, so Nelson was relinquished into our care.

Cattery staff took delicate care of Nelson in the months that followed, making sure his wounds were cleaned and ointment was applied multiple times a day. And, of course, they gave him plenty of affection.

Nelson's burns were very slow to heal; and, to make matters more difficult, a vet exam revealed that Nelson had a grade 3 out of 6 heart murmur. Once adopted, he would need to have regular appointments with a veterinarian. His condition seemed to deter potential adopters, but he kept purring and he kept healing. He would often spend time with staff members enjoying extra lap time and cuddles. Even after his traumatic ordeal, Nelson is still incredibly sweet and has an infectious purr.

Finally, after four months at the VBSPCA, Nelson was adopted. An announcement was made over the intercom, and staff rushed to the lobby to bid him farewell. Nelson is loving life in his new home, and we are happy to say that he has left his traumatic past behind.



Healing in style



Adoption Day

Furthering Our Reach



Upcoming Specialty Workshops

Leash Walking 101 - April 14th

Total Recall - May 12th

Reactive Rover - June 30th

STRENGTHEN THE BOND

Research shows that behavior issues are among the most frequent reasons that people surrender their pets to shelters. The VBSPCA Pet Academy addresses this problem head on. Through in house training with our shelter animals and public classes made available to pet parents, we are dedicated to making sure that the VBSPCA adoptions are lasting adoptions. For more information, visit vbspca.com/petacademy.



Purchasing your pet products at the VBSPCA Pet Supplies & Adoption Center saves lives.



\$10 off

ANY \$30 PURCHASE

Valid through April 30th, 2019

**COUPON CODE:
MARCHNL19**

Adoptions, perishable goods, and flea/tick treatments are exempt from promotion.

Protecting Our Wildlife



Thanks to the Grandy Wildlife and Humane Education Fund, the VBSPCA can match donations made to the VBSPCA Wildlife and Humane Education programs up to the amount of \$25,000! That's a total of \$50,000 that can be raised to support these two very important programs. You can support this campaign all year long, and make sure to check our website and social media pages as we highlight stories from our VBSPCA wildlife team and humane educators.

Late last fall, the Virginia Beach SPCA wildlife referral line received a call about a Great Blue Heron near Mt. Trashmore Park. The heron was lying in the water and a fishing hook was lodged in his wing. The fishing line was caught in a shrub by the water, making it impossible for the bird to escape. He was thin, ice cold, and had likely been in the water for a couple of days.

When he arrived at the VBSPCA, he was immediately taken to the clinic where the hook was removed and his condition was assessed. X-rays revealed that no bones were broken and there were no other physical injuries. Staff put him on heat and began to warm his body temperature; and, within 24 hours, he was strong enough to be transported to a rehabilitator. Within 48 hours, the heron was flying around the aviary and was able to be successfully released back where he was found.

Our staff was there for the release and it was a moment to remember. The heron spread his wings and took flight, making a brief stop on a rooftop to look back and acknowledge his caretakers. It was a touching moment, and then he flew off into the distance.

For more information about protecting wildlife from fishing hooks and lines, visit wildlifecenter.org.

To make a donation

to the Grandy Wildlife and Humane Education Fund, please contact our Development Department at 757-427-0070 x 142 or visit vbspca.com.

How you can help protect wildlife from fishing hooks and lines:

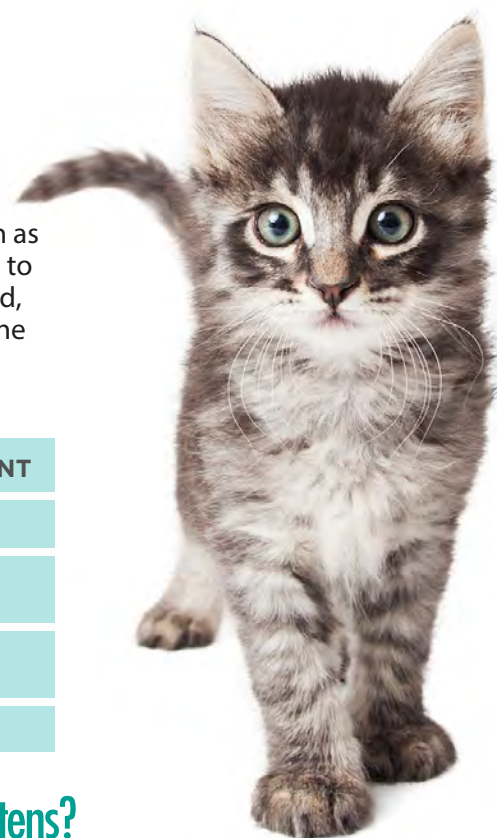
- Dispose of broken or leftover gear properly. Never leave behind fishing line, hooks, lures, or bait. Some places offer designated fishing gear disposal options, such as fishing line recycling bins or tubes.
- Do not release fish who still have hooks in them. If practicing catch and release, use barbless hooks.
- If you find an animal who is entangled in fishing line or unintentionally hook an animal while fishing, contact the Virginia Beach SPCA Wildlife Referral line at 757-263-4762. A wildlife volunteer can assess the situation and provide guidance on best course of action.



Become A Foster

Kitten Season Is Here

At the Virginia Beach SPCA, the months between March and October are known as **Kitten Season**. Many of the kittens that come in during this time are too young to be adopted, so they are placed into foster care until they are completely weaned, old enough to vaccinate and spay/neuter, and have been properly socialized. The VBSPCA is always in need of foster volunteers, but the need is especially high during the warmer months.



TYPE OF FOSTER	DURATION OF FOSTER	DAILY COMMITMENT
Bottle Feeding Kittens	6-8 weeks	8 Hours or More
Weaned Kittens 3 Weeks Old	Up to 8 Weeks	4 Hours or More
Weaned Kittens 6 Weeks and Older	1-2 Weeks	2 Hours or More
Momma Cat With Kittens	Up To 8 Weeks	2 Hours or More



What does it take to foster kittens?

Jessica Traynor, Communications & Outreach Coordinator for the VBSPCA, has fostered 28 kittens in the past 2 years, so we asked her a few questions about her fostering experiences.

What is a normal day fostering kittens?

Jessica: Adorable... you're surrounded by kittens all day! Kittens under two weeks of age need to be with me at all times because they need to bottle feed every two hours. If they are between two and four weeks old, they can go a little longer between feedings.

What are some of the challenges with fostering kittens?

Jessica: There are a lot of unknowns when fostering newborns. Sometimes you'll get a finicky eater who won't latch to their bottle. It can take longer to go through their feedings and make sure they get the nutrients they need. Fostering one kitten can also be challenging because the foster is responsible for teaching socialization, when it would normally be learned through play with other cats.

What are some of your favorite fostering memories?

Jessica: Itty Bitty was about two weeks old when he came in with his mom. Itty Bitty's mom was so scared to be in the shelter that she would curl up and hide, making it hard for Itty Bitty to feed. He wasn't growing properly, which is how he got his name, so I ended up fostering him until he was old enough and strong enough for adoption.

For more information or to sign-up today, contact Cat.Walker@vbspca.com

THE BEST
THINGS IN LIFE
ARE ADOPTED



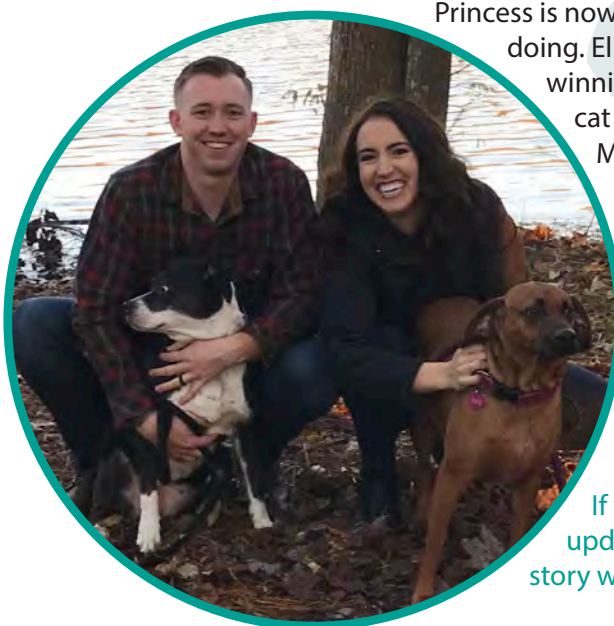
Adoption Update



Princess, One Year Later

You may remember Princess, the 3-year-old Pit Bull Terrier mix who survived a severe case of animal neglect. Princess had spent her entire life outdoors in a squalid pen in South Hampton County, Virginia with another Pit Bull mix named Gigi. For three years, the only care that Princess and Gigi received was from PETA's animal rescue team who would routinely check on the two dogs, providing them with clean water, food, and flea treatments. In the fall of 2017, local police found Gigi dead in her cage, prompting animal control to confiscate Princess. Animal control relinquished Princess to PETA, who fostered Princess at their Norfolk shelter. After a judge awarded permanent custody of Princess to PETA, she was transferred to the Virginia Beach SPCA where she would have a better chance of being adopted.

Princess was heartworm positive when she came to the VBSPCA. Although heartworms are preventable and curable, they can lead to death when not treated. Princess spent two months at the VBSPCA where she won staff over with her goofy and affectionate personality. Finally, in January 2018, Princess was adopted and had a palace to call her own.



Princess is now known as Ellie, and we caught up with her family to see how she is doing. Ellie still has the same infectiously congenial personality and continues winning the hearts of everyone she meets. She's even been able to convert cat lovers into dog lovers because of how affectionate and sweet she is. Madeline Johnson, Ellie's adopter, says that "Ellie loves to cuddle up and take naps on the laps of everyone she meets... She has a bit of a mischievous side and will sneak onto the counter to swipe a few bananas for herself and her sister Zoanne, our other adopted pup from the VBSPCA." Ellie and Zoanne have become the closest of friends and both look forward to their daily walks. Ellie has been able to successfully lose the weight she gained while going through heartworm treatment. "We are so grateful and blessed to have our babies, Zoanne and Ellie, be a part of our family," said Madeline.

If you adopted a pet from the VBSPCA and would like to send us an update, please send your story and photos to info@vbspca.com. Your story will help us spread the word that shelter pets make great pets!



MAYBE SHE'S BORN WITH IT

“Maybelline’s brave chapter at the VBSPCA touched the hearts of our entire staff.”

When Baby Bear was relinquished to the Virginia Beach SPCA in November, she was just a year old and barely weighed 5 pounds. She had multiple infected bite wounds, she was severely underweight, and staff suspected she may have kidney disease. Veterinarians at the VBSPCA Clinic quickly took Baby Bear into their care. Her wounds needed to be opened and properly cleaned, except her weakened kidneys prevented sedation. It was a rough road for Baby Bear, with tough days still ahead, but she bravely endured. After Baby Bear’s wounds were cleaned and she was bathed, staff noticed how naturally long her eyelashes were and everyone began calling her Maybelline.

Maybelline went into foster care with a VBSPCA Clinic staff member who was able to provide the intensive care that

she needed while in recovery. In addition to kidney disease, her bloodwork results revealed that she had mild anemia, her thyroid level was low, and she had low blood sugar. The medication made her nauseous, weak, and lethargic. However, Maybelline continued to persevere.

By the end of January, Maybelline had gained two pounds, her wounds had healed, her hair had grown back, and her blood work results had reached normal limits. She was finally cleared for adoption, and she is now living at home with her new family. Maybelline’s brave chapter at the VBSPCA touched the hearts of our entire staff and she will be remembered for years to come. We aren’t quite sure what makes her so resilient.... maybe she was born with it.



Spending time with staff

Best Friends Honor Roll

\$10,000+

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Caryl T. Gove* Charitable
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Second Chance Thrift
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\$5,000-\$9,999

1 Lucky Dog
Abbey Animal Hospital
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Trish Blue
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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Barbara Chervanik
Douglas and Tammy Cobb
John Coleman
Bree Collier

Friends Forever Legacy Society

Our Friends Forever Legacy Society honors those who have demonstrated unwavering support that will last beyond a lifetime by including us in their wills, life insurance, IRAs, trusts, or other estate plans. These legacy gifts will help to ensure that we will be able to care for animals most in need well into the future. If you have already made plans for a future gift, please let us know so that we may thank you! If you would like information on how to become a Friend Forever, please contact Emily Peck, Director of Development emily.peck@vbspca.com or 757-427-0070 ext. 142

The Honorable Thomas Ammons
Dia DuVernet
Morris & Jan Fine
Nina Garry
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Eugene & Patricia Graeff
Sharon Haring

Ken Moreno
Maureen Sigmund
John Steward
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all it takes is \$10 a month.

Learn more at vbspca.com/membership

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Mission Sustainer Level 1

Annual Donation of \$120-\$240 (Minimum of \$10 per month)

Members Receive

5% Discount at the VBSPCA Pet Supplies and Adoption Center

Invites to Monthly Yappy Hours at local restaurants and breweries

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Annual Donation of \$240 + (minimum of \$20 per month)

Members Receive

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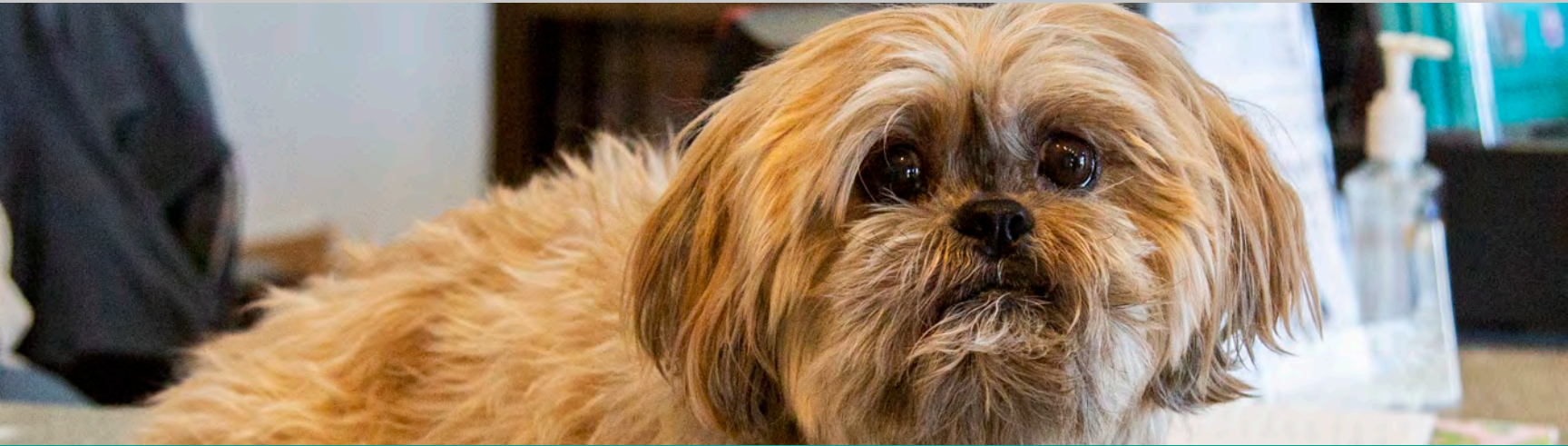
5% Discount on Summer Camps, Humane Education Workshops, and Pet Training Services

Member only T-shirt

Member-only pricing on Signature events

Invites to exclusive, member-only events, including paint nights, holiday pet portraits, interactive animal events, coffee with the CEO at local cafes, and more.

Making The Difference



ROCK THE COMPASSION CLASSROOM DOG

Bonnie Davies retired from teaching at Virginia Beach Public Schools in 2015, but her time in the classroom was far from finished. When a 15-year battle to save her injured leg came to an end in 2017 and resulted in amputation, Bonnie found a new way to inspire compassion and resilience in the classroom. Just months after learning how to walk with her prosthetic, Bonnie joined the Virginia Beach SPCA as part of the Humane Education department and began participating in the Compassion Classroom program. Compassion Classroom is a series of Standards of Learning aligned, character education lessons in compassion, respect, and responsibility for kindergartners up through fifth graders. Bonnie spends an average of 20 hours per week in the classroom educating children. She always brings an animal with her, but her favorite is Rock, a three-legged Shih-Tzu mix who also survived losing a leg. When asked what motivates her, Bonnie says "Having the opportunity to share my love of rescued animals with others is incredibly fulfilling. Sometimes those animals are survivors having faced and conquered obstacles in their lives. Working with Rock enables me to demonstrate that there is life, love, and happiness after limb loss. Through our efforts, I hope to bring an awareness that although physically an animal may be less than perfect, they are still perfectly able to give love and bring joy to others."



CANISTER PROGRAM VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



For 18 years, Marian and Gentry Childress have managed the Virginia Beach SPCA canister program, which, since its inception in 1992 has raised over \$157,000 for the animals. In 2000, when Marian and Gentry took the reigns, the canisters were only in a handful of locations and brought in a little over \$2,000 each year. Canisters are now in 27 locations, and they brought in over \$10,000 in 2018. Marian and Gentry have been involved every step of the way, which often involves picking up and transporting the canisters and counting and rolling thousands of dollars of loose change. Marian's fondest memories of working with the canister program involve all of the people she's met - from staff, to volunteers, to the people in the community - who all want to make a difference in the lives of animals. We're grateful for dedicated and compassionate volunteers like Marian and Gentry whose consistent small actions make a huge impact.

Interested in having a VBSPCA canister at your business? Contact info@vbspca.com.



VIRGINIA BEACH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

3040 Holland Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
phone: (757) 427-0070
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www.vbspca.com • info@vbspca.com

OPEN FOR ADOPTION SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!

HOURS OF OPERATION

Shelter Adoption Hours:

Monday: 12pm-5pm
Tuesday: 12pm-6pm
Wednesday: 2pm-6pm
Thursday: 12pm-5pm
Friday: 12pm-4pm
Saturday: 10am-4pm
Sunday: 10am-4pm

Shelter Receiving Hours:

Monday & Thursday 12pm - 4pm
Tuesday 12pm - 5pm
Friday 10am - 3pm
Saturday & Sunday 10am - 3pm

***No Animals Accepted on Wednesday**

Pet Supplies & Adoption Center Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 10am-6pm
Sunday: 12pm-5pm

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



UPCOMING EVENTS TO SUPPORT THE ANIMALS



MARCH



March 30, 2019
Cavalier Golf & Yacht Club
7pm-11pm

APRIL



April 13, 2019
VBSPCA Main Shelter
10am-2pm

MAY

PAW CRAWL



May 18, 2019
Virginia Beach, Oceanfront
3pm-6pm

COME JOIN THE FUN