



FEBRUARY 2021

Happy Tails

Bella's Journey

Donor Spotlight

Terry O'Quinn

Partnerships

Collaboration Saves Lives

CREATURE CHRONICLES



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 2020 TAX FILING

- Taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions can take a one-time deduction of up to \$300 for gifts made to charitable organizations. The deduction is ONLY for gifts of cash made in calendar year 2020. For taxpayers who are married filing jointly, they may take a one-time deduction of up to \$600 for cash gifts made to qualifying organizations in the calendar year 2021.
- In a typical year, individuals can only take a charitable deduction of up to 60 percent of their adjusted gross income, no matter how much they give. For 2020, there is no limit. Cash contributions are fully deductible.
- In 2020, corporations may deduct 25% of charitable gifts as opposed to 10% in a typical year.

Letter From Derby Brackett



Does anyone else have that sense of déjà vu?

Well, we have. The bad news is that it is 2021 and we are still in the throes of the pandemic, waiting anxiously to be on the other side. The great news is that it is 2021 and we are still here, working hard for the animals and connecting them with their best lives yet. While there are days that seem endless and exhausting, there are even more days that are timeless and joyful.

Throughout this fall and the first half of our fiscal year, those are the moments that we hang onto- that help us wake up and face the day with new bravado and even more importantly, hope.

As we began our fiscal year in September, we started off strong with our 365 Days of Compassion fundraiser. We had so many folks celebrate the special days in their lives and it was a true symbol of our generous and dedicated community. We also planned our fall festivities, Mutt Masquerade and Puttin' for Paws, with great hope for in-person events. As we all know, events happened virtual or not at all, and the fatigue of virtual attendance dashed our hopes of significant participation. But we continue to persist in delivering our mission in so many other ways. 2020 did not define us, but it does continue to mold us.

The holidays brought different ways for us to celebrate and share our hope. Our community of supporters rallied strong on Giving Tuesday, raising almost \$40,000 for our Miracle Medical Fund. Outdoor Lighting Perspectives helped us decorate the shelter with the splendor of holiday lights, allowing us to feel festive every night. And once again, Toyota and Priority Automotive helped us send 130 animals Home for the Holidays, through their funding of adoption fees. Joy was everywhere this season at the VBSPCA.

As we round the corner on the New Year, refreshed hope abounds. Through the generosity of the Alfred L. Nicholson Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, we have new lighting in our parking lot, creating a safer environment for staff and public guests. Through this grant, we have also updated our technology, ensuring the security of our data and greater efficiency for all of our operations. And in keeping with our own value of community, we hosted a food drive for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia on the National Day of Service. We had a huge response from our staff, friends, and neighbors throughout the community and joyfully delivered our gift to those in need. We continue to focus our leadership, not only on our mission of strengthening the animal-human bond, but also on the bonds that tie us together as humans. That focus will be threaded throughout all of our work this year, as we look to our workforce **and** our mission to be one of inclusion. One of these initiatives is our Humane Education program as we work

to develop virtual programming that can be accessible to all children in our community. Our youngest animal lovers are a critical audience- we need to keep them engaged and active in understanding our mission of compassion. Our current fundraising appeal is our Humane Education Match – we still have \$5,000 in matching funds left. Your gift will help us create those connections and reach more young minds and hearts.

Time marches on. The pandemic is still here- but help is on the way. We will continue to be open to serve the community and their animals, following all the guidelines for our safety and our health. So yes, we have been here before, but we have never been stronger or more resolute in our commitment to our community and our animals. Hope continues to guide us and we see light- lots of light- at the end of this tunnel.

Stay safe and well. Come see us when you can.

With great hope for all of our futures,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derby D. Brackett".

Derby D. Brackett
CEO



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Terry O'Quinn



Photo Credit: Kate Baldwin



Terry O'Quinn is widely known for his roles in television and film, but what is less known is that he has an extremely philanthropic spirit. He has been supporting the VBSPCA since 2015; he uses his celebrity to help promote campaigns, donates items to our silent auctions, participates in our Puttin' for Paws Golf Tournament, volunteers in our cattery on holidays, and most recently, has donated over \$60,000 to the VBSPCA through his participation with Cameo and Charitybuzz! He even helped reunite an old dog with her family when he and his partner, Kate, delivered Ladybird to her home in North Carolina. Terry and Kate adopted their cat Mr. Jed from the VBSPCA in 2018, and they both continue to champion the VBSPCA mission in their personal and professional lives.

Q: How did you first get involved with the VBSPCA?

A: When we first moved to the area, my partner Kate and I were looking for ways to get involved with the community and the VBSPCA was at the top of our list. Kate grew up in Virginia Beach and has been a lifelong animal lover, so it was a natural fit for us. Here we are 5 years later... Kate is now the VBSPCA Chief Communications Officer and I am a proud supporter of their mission.

Q: What area of the organization inspires you the most?

A: The idea of finding homes for animals that need them is what I find the most satisfying, and I am inspired by how hard the people at the VBSPCA work to make that happen. Kate sends me pictures almost every day of kittens, puppies, and sweet old dogs and I know they are in the right place and in the right hands.

Q: How have pets impacted your life?

A: I am a bit of a homebody, which I think is a side effect of being somewhat recognizable. Having a small pride of cats at home makes life a lot more fun and interesting. I am not sure where I fit in the pride, somewhere in the middle I think. But in all seriousness, given how difficult 2020 was, having a pet to greet you when you come in the door made everything a little more bearable.

Q: How have your philanthropic values impacted your life?

A: I have always believed that those of us who are in a position to help others should do so. We are all fellow creatures, and whether it is time or money that we have to give, we should give when we can. Besides... karma.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?

A: There are a lot of ways to get involved with the mission. Pick one and do something. Membership is easy. Donating bleach is easy. It doesn't have to be big, but they can't do what they do without us.

Member Only T-Shirt



JOIN THE MISSION

BECOME A MEMBER

As a VBSPCA Member, you become part of our story. Every adoption we complete, every animal we rescue, every child we reach, and every pet we treat in our clinic connects back to you. YOU make our mission possible, and

all it takes is \$10 a month.

Learn more at vbspca.com/membership

Community



Roxy

TRANSFER PARTNERS

Working Together To End Homelessness

Roxy and her litter of newborn puppies were surrendered by a backyard breeder whose home environment had become uninhabitable. They were originally surrendered to our friends at Tri-County Animal Shelter who then transferred the mother and pups to the VBSPCA. One of our dedicated foster families took in the mother and her entire litter for 7 weeks until the puppies were old enough and healthy enough for adoption. As of February 4th, all of the puppies have been adopted, and Roxy is ready and waiting for her forever family to arrive. This mom has been through quite a journey, and we know her next chapter will be her best one yet.



Champ

On August 4, 2020, a tornado destroyed a mobile home park in Bertie County, North Carolina. Champ was out in the yard and tethered to his dog house when the storm came through. The next day, he was found in a nearby ditch with the dog house still chained to his body. It took the teamwork of three organizations to save Champ's life and give him the second chance he needed. He had been visited by PETA prior to the tornado, with their team providing him food, water, and basic necessities. After the storm, Bertie County Humane Society took him into their care for safekeeping. Week's passed and Champ's owners never claimed him. He was then transferred to the VBSPCA where he had a better chance at finding a family. On January 31st, Champ was adopted into a loving home.

Roxy and Champ are two of the many success stories we are able to tell with the help of our transfer partners. These partnerships move animals out of areas where adoption is unlikely and into shelters like the VBSPCA where our community is dedicated to supporting adoption. VBSPCA transfer partnerships made second chances possible for 1,373 animals in 2020. While we all work individually to make a difference in the lives of homeless pets in our specific communities, together we can do so much more.

Dedication



A Heartfelt Thank You

This past winter, our volunteer department was managed by two extremely dedicated volunteers: Laura Poole and Donna Schnaars. These two veteran VBSPCA supporters stepped in to take the reins while our Human Resources and Volunteer Manager was on maternity leave.

Laura has been volunteering with the VBSPCA since 2014; when she is not fostering one of our special needs animals she is running our Visiting Paws program. Over the past few months she has assisted with volunteer scheduling and helped recruit volunteers for various important projects around the shelter.

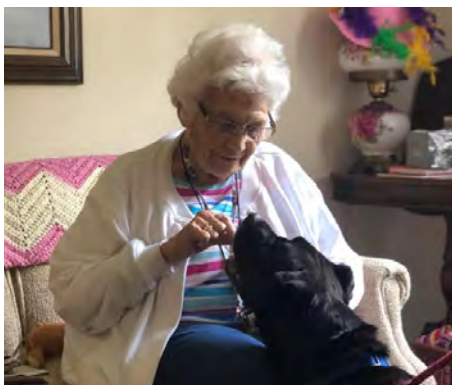


Donna has been supporting the VBSPCA since 2017. In normal times, she can be found as an animal ambassador at VBSPCA events and on Visiting Paws outings. She has recently provided extra support by assisting with our volunteer communications and software maintenance - tedious and important work.

We would also like to recognize Arvie Larsen, Bob Schirmer, Suzanne Lundquist, Joanne Emerson, and the late Rick Stewart who have displayed unwavering commitment to our organization throughout the pandemic. While we have reduced the volunteer capacity in our building, these passionate, veteran volunteers have played a critical role in our ability to successfully navigate the challenges of 2020.

Visiting Paws

The Virginia Beach SPCA's Visiting Paws program has been on hold since last spring and we are eager to get back into facilities where we can share the joys of animal companionship with those in need of a friend. Once the weather warms and these vulnerable communities have been vaccinated, we look forward to the return of this very impactful program. To learn more or to sign your facility up for a visit, visit vbspca.com/visiting-paws



Empathy

Poppy

MIRACLE MEDICAL FUND

Your Donation Dollars at Work

Poppy showed up at the VBSPCA with noticeable bald patches and itchy skin after suffering from years of neglect. Despite her rough start to life, this 4 year old was immediately friendly to our clinic staff as they worked to determine the source of her allergies and discomfort. With the help of steroids, antibiotics, anti-anxiety medication, and a special diet, Poppy's skin is finally healing and her hair has begun to grow back. This sweet girl loves belly rubs, is extremely generous with her kisses, and is ready for her forever family to show up and take her home.

Thor, a senior Saint Bernard mix, arrived at the shelter in early December. His fur was extremely matted in knots all over his body and he had a severe ear infection - both of which were causing a great deal of pain. Thanks to the Miracle Medical Fund, Thor has made a complete recovery and was happily adopted into his forever home on January 29th.



Poppy and Thor's stories are just two of many that will have a happy ending thanks to the VBSPCA Miracle Medical Fund. Your donations to this special fund allow us to provide necessary medical care to each and every animal who passes through our doors. Whether it is a life-saving surgery or a routine vaccine, these donations ensure that we give each of our animals a healthy start for their next chapter.

If you would like to make a donation directly to our Miracle Medical Fund, visit vbspca.com/miracle-medical-fund

Innovation

Humane Education

Humane Education is a pillar of the VBSPCA mission, and the new normal has forced many changes to our long standing programs. With limits on in-person and group experiences, efforts have been put toward engaging children in their homes. From writing competitions to art challenges, we have continued to share and encourage the values of respect, empathy, and kindness in hopes of creating a more compassionate community.

Last fall, we invited children to participate in a 3-part reading challenge. Reading assignments included books about kindness, books about animals, and even reading in the presence of a pet. Some children participated on their own and some as part of a class assignment, and we even had 9 year old Abby participate all the way from Pennsylvania.



During the month of December, we provided children with the opportunity to send Holiday Wishes to our shelter animals. A variety of letter templates were made available on our website, and we had children from all across Hampton Roads mail some very special wishes to our animals.

Our Pawsitive Press just wrapped up its first official year in publication! This seasonal youth newsletter includes educational lessons and activities designed to instill character values while reinforcing the VBSPCA mission. Past publications have focused on wildlife, black cats, the dangers of heat, and our Winter 2021 issue is all about rabbits.

A Tale for Two launched last July and we have welcomed over 175 children into the shelter to read to our adoptable cats, dogs, and even small animals. This program has been a big hit with parents and children, and our animals certainly like the attention. A Tale for Two takes place every Monday, and you can register your child at vbspca.com/a-tale-for-two.

Coming Soon - We are currently working on an online interactive experience for children that will be partially funded by our Humane Education Match Campaign!

HUMANE EDUCATION *Match Campaign*

For the children of today
and the animals of tomorrow

**\$5,000 IN MATCH FUNDS
ARE STILL AVAILABLE**

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT
DONATE TODAY

vbspca.com/match



Young Philanthropists

The VBSPCA relies on the generosity of the community all year long, but our staff and animals were especially grateful for the public's spirit of giving this holiday season. We saw many young philanthropists step up to collect money and other donations on our behalf, and their kind hearts and creative spirits were especially inspiring. There were days when our lobby was practically overflowing with donations - everything from treats to toys to shredded paper to blankets.



Charlotte

Charlotte turned 7 years old last November. Instead of asking for toys or clothes, she encouraged her friends and family to drop off donations so she could bring them to our shelter.

Elisa, Amalie, Avery, and Sydney

This foursome usually does a bake sale every December to raise money for the VBSPCA. With COVID-19, they had to get creative and decided to make ornaments to sell instead. They raised a total of \$120 to support our animals.

Adriana

Adriana eventually wants to become an exotic veterinarian, and it's clear she loves animals! This passionate teenager has been collecting donations for the VBSPCA as part of a Girl Scout project since 2019, and she dropped off her latest haul in late December.

Brady

Every year, Brady collects donations and money for the VBSPCA around the holidays. This past season, this dedicated 13 year old was able to bring in a wagon full of supplies as well as \$225 in financial gifts.

Caroline

Caroline is 8 years old and loves to draw, so she set up an online fundraiser to benefit the VBSPCA. For a minimum donation of \$5, Caroline created custom sketches. She raised \$950, which she used to purchase some of our most needed items.

Want to donate items to help our animals? Check out our wish list at vbspca.com/wish-list.

Collaboration

Home For The Holidays

The 12th annual Home for the Holidays promotion was a huge success! Priority Automotive led the effort to help homeless animals find their way into a loving home during the holiday season. Priority Toyota Chesapeake teamed up with the VBSPCA and two other local animal shelters and paid 50% of all canine and feline adoption fees. The program kicked off December 5th and was slated to run through the end of the year or until funds ran out, whichever came first.

By December 22, all funds were used and a total of 304 animals were adopted from participating Southside shelters! Here at the VBSPCA alone, 130 animals found forever homes during this annual adoption promotion. Congratulations to our new pet parents, and a special thank you to Priority Automotive for making second chances possible for so many animals!



*small animal fees were not covered by Home For The Holidays funds, but the increased foot traffic during the promotion contributed to their adoptions.



PRIORITY
AUTOMOTIVE

Associate Highlights

Meet Our Newest Veterinarian *Dr. Kristal Lebron*

Originally from Puerto Rico, Dr. Lebron completed her degree in Biology and Natural Science on the island. She went on to receive her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts in 2019. As part of her clinical training, Dr. Lebron spent a year at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in Indiana and completed her externship right here at the VBSPCA. She enjoyed her experience so much that she decided to join our team permanently.

Around the shelter, Dr. Lebron is known as someone who will take on any job, big or small. Her passion for animals is appreciated by the entire VBSPCA team as well as her clients, and she was recognized as our Employee of the Year in 2020.

Dr. Lebron has three pets of her own: two guinea pigs, Tesla and Newton, and a Shih-Tzu named Hedwig. In her free time she enjoys traveling back to Puerto Rico, reading, and spending time outdoors.



Nelson-Mako Award
Will Jensen

2020 Associate Award Recipients

At the Virginia Beach SPCA, much of our focus rests on providing compassionate care to our animals. However, this care would not be possible without the dedicated, compassionate associates who live our mission every single day. Each year we are proud to honor team members who go above and beyond for our animals. Our annual recognition includes our Employee of the Year Award, the Nelson-Mako Award, and our Value Awards. Our treasured Nelson-Mako Award went to team member Will Jensen.

The Nelson-Mako Award was created in honor of two very special animals who spent time in our shelter and captured our hearts. Both Nelson and Mako's stories are examples of everything for which the VBSPCA stands: kindness, compassion, dedication, empathy, and advocacy. It is in their honor that this award is presented annually to an associate who exhibits an exceptional commitment to the spirit of our mission and is a true hero to the animals.

Collaboration Award
Emily Olley

Empathy Award
Jessica Lee

Innovation Award
Micaya Finney

Joy Award
Ronda Roberts

Community Award
Cat Walker

Dedication Award
Laura Kibler

HAPPY TAILS



Bella

Adopted December 2020

At 3 years old, Bella has had quite a journey. She came to the VBSPCA last July through our transfer partners in St. Charles Parrish, Louisiana. When they found her, she was missing a paw, heartworm positive, and abandoned.

Once Bella arrived at the VBSPCA, our veterinarians determined that she would need to have her back, right leg amputated in addition to treatment for advanced heartworm disease. Bella was placed in a foster home while she went through her treatment and recovered from surgery, and she was finally cleared for adoption in October. Bella found her forever family two months later, and you can read more about her story on the following page.

Bella (continued)

I found Bella on the VBSPCA website. I wasn't really planning on adopting another dog but something told me that she was going to be hard to resist and I was right. Bella is doing awesome, fitting in well with the routine and her two dog sisters, Peanut and Penny. They are both younger than Bella - but she has equal, if not more, energy and enthusiasm.

Bella enjoys running outside in the backyard, digging for grubs, chasing her sisters, and has also learned that naps are great! She does not like to get in her kennel for bedtime - she will run on the couch and curl up into a ball, like "you can't see me" - it's the cutest thing.

I would encourage anyone who may be looking to adopt a dog with special needs-go for it. It's such a blessing and you will feel great with all the love that dog will give back to you. I look into Bella's eyes and I see how grateful she is. She gives me lots of kisses daily too to thank me for giving a three-legged dog a chance - a chance to prove that she's just as awesome as any four-legged dog.



Ginny & Wanda Adopted July 2020

We had just returned two fosters to the VBSPCA when the staff asked us if we would take home Ginny and Wanda for their two week vaccine quarantine. Typically our fosters go into a separate room for their stay as they are usually younger, but both kittens refused to be separated from our family. We tempted fate and allowed them to begin to roam the house. Our last cat to be adopted, Galen, is an extremely shy cat and hesitant to accept new animals. He was never scared when we brought them home and introduced them. Once their personalities began to shine, it was clear that Ginny and Wanda were choosing us. It would have broken our hearts to separate the girls, so we decided to make both of them permanent members of our family.





VIRGINIA BEACH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

3040 Holland Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
phone: (757) 427-0070
fax: (757) 427-5939
www.vbspca.com • info@vbspca.com

HOURS OF OPERATION

Shelter Adoption Hours:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday – Sunday: 11:00am – 6:00pm

Shelter Receiving Hours:

Tuesday – Sunday: 11:00am – 5:00pm
(by appointment only)

Clinic Hours:

Monday – Friday: 9:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday: Closed

Surgery Drop-Off: 8:00am – 8:45am

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

VBSPCA 2021 ANNUAL PARTNERS



PURINA
Shelter Champions



TERRY
O'QUINN



Patient First



We are grateful for the philanthropic businesses and individuals who partner in our mission to create a more compassionate community. For more information, visit vbspca.com.

