



MARCH 2022

Pet Pantry

Supporting Families
Through Tough Times

Beach Buddies

Tail-Waggin' Fun

Compassionate Kids

Helping Animals In Need

CREATURE CHRONICLES

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Blondie, Cover Model Photo Credit: Kate Baldwin

Blondie came to the VBSPCA along with her mother, Mama, in search of a retirement home. Both Blondie and Mama are adorable, and their ear deformities make them even cuter! They both suffered from ear mites, which can be very dangerous when left untreated. Fortunately, Blondie and Mama received the treatment they needed and their health was restored. The pair has spent their entire lives together and can't wait to enjoy their golden years side by side, as they have always been. Blondie, our cover model, enjoys sunning herself by a window and curling up in a human's lap.

JOIN THE MISSION BECOME A MEMBER

**GIVE ANIMALS HOPE
FOR TOMORROW**

YOU make our mission possible, and
all it takes is \$10 a month.
vbspca.com/membership



2022 VBSPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ashley Knepper
Brad Kuether
Amy Mallet
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Les Watson

Letter From Derby Brackett



A day doesn't go by when we don't think about the animals. Our days start with our own pets waking us up early to remind us that the mission continues. As we head to work, our thoughts turn to the animals in our shelter and the daily care that we must provide for each of them. We think of the animals in our community who depend on us for compassionate medical care. We focus on the work that we must do together as a team, whether in the kennel or cattery,

front desk or clinic, fundraising or marketing. We all come together for the animals every day-365 days a year.

As we look toward spring, hope is on the horizon at the VBSPCA. Kitten season is coming, and our team is ready to respond. Our transfer network is alive and well, and we look forward to playing our part in supporting our shelter partners both regionally and beyond. Events are slowly returning, and our annual gala is right around the corner. It has been nearly 3 years since we have been able to hold our gala in person, and we are extremely excited to be able to celebrate with our community of supporters on April 2nd. Tickets are still available for what will be an unforgettable evening, and you can learn more within the pages of this newsletter. Outreach events are also making their way onto our calendar, as is our next Puttin for Paws golf tournament which will be held in October. However and wherever we see you, we look forward to celebrating the profound impact that your support has had on the people and pets of our community.

In this edition, we celebrate all of those with the VBSPCA that serve our mission and continue to deliver on our vision of ending animal homelessness. At the highest level, we are guided by a board of directors, led by our new chair, Leila Bradley. The part they play in keeping us connected to our community, supporting our fundraising efforts, and providing governance are all done in the name of the animals. The other important aspect of our volunteer board is that they are representative of the community that we serve. They are ambassadors helping to introduce us to those donors who also believe in growing our mission, and they are constant reminders in our community of the importance of our work in animal welfare. They, too, think about the animals every day.

We also applaud those in our community who think about the animals outside of their own daily work – from the youngest donors who so generously gave their time over the holidays to collect gifts and goods for our animals, to our team of volunteers

who have steadfastly joined us to help clean cages or walk dogs over the past year. We look forward to continued success and the joy that comes from our programs such as Visiting Paws, Beach Buddies, or even our Pet Pantry that are supported by individuals who realize that giving time and goods can make such a difference to the animals in our shelter and community.

And there are those who join us by adopting animals or using the services of our clinic. We thank you for knowing that we are a trusted resource for you and for believing in our mission of compassion. The support of adoptions through programs such as Home for the Holidays or our Miracle Medical Fund are instrumental in helping us to make dreams come true for the animals and the people that love them. The amount of work that is being done in our clinic this year is amazing- a testament to the need for affordable quality healthcare for our pet population. This wonderful web of individuals and families that we see each day helps us to complete our work, coming full circle for the good of animals.

Finally, we recognize our staff- an incredible team devoted to the care and sheltering of our animals every day. The work is hard, the rewards are endless. We celebrate select individuals with annual awards as they are so deserving. But we truly are grateful for each employee who serves us and our animals in a variety of ways. Our doors stay open and our animals are ready for their next home or adventure because of staff dedication, work ethic, collaboration, and love.

The days begin and end with the animals in mind, but it is the people that honor us, believe in us, support us, and work with us that make possible the sustainable connection of people and their pets.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon... hopefully on April 2nd at our Twilight Extravaganza Gala. What better way to celebrate the mission and the work we do together.

For the animals,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derby D. Brackett". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Derby D. Brackett
CEO

NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP

Leila Bradley



In September 2021, the VBSPCA Board of Directors welcomed Leila Bradley as the new board chair. Bradley has been serving on the VBSPCA board since 2018, after first supporting the organization as a shelter volunteer. Leila's strong leadership skills bring fresh energy to the seat, and her background in finance and community building will be instrumental in this next chapter for the VBSPCA.

"Eliminating animal suffering is what I am most passionate about," said Bradley. "I believe the best way to achieve this is by increasing compassion for animals and educating the community."

Bradley can speak to the importance of our mission because she has experienced it first hand. She adopted her VBSPCA pup Scarlet in 2017, and Bradley is an advocate for the joy that pets bring to our lives. Scarlet keeps the Bradley family active, and they enjoy spending time together outside. They've even been known to dress up as a family for Halloween and participate in our costume contest. Scarlet as Scooby Doo was one of the most memorable costumes we've seen!

Leila is deeply inspired by the VBSPCA staff who care for the animals. "The shelter and clinic teams have always been so helpful, supportive and caring," Bradley said. "They truly make it their mission to care for animals and ensure they find loving forever homes."

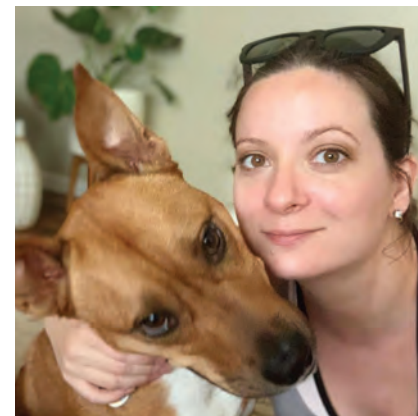
Bradley has worked for TowneBank and Towne 1031 Exchange for nearly two decades, and she is currently the Vice President of Towne 1031 Exchange. In addition to her service at the VBSPCA, Bradley is a member of the CHKD Infinity Circle and a volunteer for the United Way and the TowneBank Foundation.

"I look forward to connecting people in the community with the VBSPCA. The more people learn about the important work that is done in the shelter and clinic, the more people will become involved through adoptions, fostering, donating money or supplies, attending events, or becoming a volunteer," said Bradley. "Besides, supporting non-profit organizations builds compassion in our own lives, which - in a way - is more of the mission in action."

Bradley aims to help the VBSPCA continue to grow and looks forward to working closely with the Executive Team. "My hope for my term as board chair is to continue to offer support for the SPCA so they can continue to thrive and have a positive impact on our community," Bradley said.

We are so grateful for Leila's service to the people and animals of the VBSPCA, and we are excited for what's to come.

The VBSPCA would like to recognize Tom Sheppard and Jan Fine, who recently stepped down from their board service. Tom served on the board for 6 years, and Jan for over 15 years. We are so appreciative of all they have done for the VBSPCA, and we wish them well in their future endeavors. If you have a passion for the VBSPCA mission and professional experience that would be a good fit for the VBSPCA board, contact Emily Peck at emily.peck@vbspca.com.



TICKETS ON SALE

VBSPCA

TWILIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA

Wags & Whiskers Gala

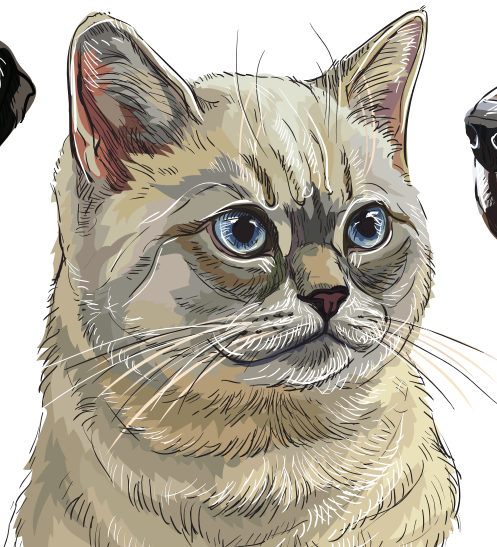
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The Virginia Beach SPCA Wags & Whiskers Gala
Hampton Roads' Premier Event Benefiting Homeless Pets
Saturday, April 2nd, 2022 from 7pm to 11pm | Cocktail Attire

NEW REALM BREWING CO.
FOOD ♦ DRINKS ♦ GAMES

The VBSPCA Wags & Whiskers Gala is back, and this year's event takes the shape of a Twilight Extravaganza with food, drinks, live entertainment, and some spectacular surprises! Guests can also look forward to a collection of nostalgic and modern carnival games, a silent auction with one-of-a-kind experiences, and lots of adorable animals. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so pick out your party clothes and get ready for a tail-waggin' good time.

vbspca.com/gala



Community



Coming Together in Celebration

After nearly two years of postponing events, we were finally able to gather with our community! We hosted our first ever Party for the Animals in late September, followed by the return of our 20th annual Puttin' for Paws golf tournament. We capped off the season with our first Howl-o-Ween Pub Crawl and Costume Contest, and each event delivered food, fun, and visits with furry friends... all in support of the VBSPCA mission.

Party for the Animals - On September 19th, we welcomed over 200 guests to the Shack's Outdoor Oasis for an afternoon of family friendly fun! There were games and activities for the little ones, and food, drink, and live music for the grown-ups.

Puttin' for Paws - On October 8th, 125 golfers showed up at Red Wing Lake golf course for one of our best golf tournaments thus far. The weather was perfect, and the course was lively with interactive experiences, games, furry friends, and refreshments. Our next tournament is scheduled for October 7th, 2022, so be sure to save the date!

Howl-O-Ween Pub Crawl - On October 23rd, 100 supporters showed up in costume to participate in our pub crawl. We spent the afternoon "crawling" around the oceanfront with Cruella Deville, canine superheroes, a couple of pirates, a few dodgeball competitors, and even a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle. It was a ton of fun, and we're already looking forward to the creative costumes that will show up at our 2022 event! Mark your calendars now, and we hope to see you on Saturday, October 22.

Next up is our annual Wags & Whiskers Gala on April 2nd at New Realm Brewing Co. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and this event will not disappoint!





HAPPY TAILS

Tater Tot

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Adopted August 2021

In July 2021, Tater Tot was transferred to the Virginia Beach SPCA in need of critical care. His right hind leg had been broken and never healed properly, and he was unable to put any weight on it. Tater Tot's leg was amputated at the VBSPCA Clinic, and Tater Tot was able to recover from the surgery in a foster home.

It turned out to be an instance of "in the right place at the right time" for Tater Tot. His foster mom's stepdaughter, Amber, happened to move back home as he began his recovery. "I wasn't aware she was fostering a dog."

Tater Tot (continued)

As I was unpacking, she walked in with this block-headed, stubborn, drowsy, golden-eyed baby, and, for me, it was love at first sight," says Amber. "That evening, I started asking her questions about the adoption process."

Three weeks later, Amber made her decision. Now Tater Tot enjoys laying on the couch as he looks out the window and playing with his many toys. Amber and Tater Tot even have a weekend routine: they head to Starbucks to get a puppuccino.

"Tater has made my life so much more enjoyable. Who would have thought hearing a dog snore right next to your ear while he tries to steal your pillow would be as comforting as it is? People should adopt a dog with special needs because as much as you teach them new tricks or commands, they teach you how to work around their differences," says Amber. "Whenever I tell my coworkers about Tater Tot's disability, they look at me so heartbroken... If only they knew how lively he is and how little his disability affects him."



Shadow Adopted February 2021

Shadow arrived at the VBSPCA in November 2020 when his owner could no longer care for him, which is how many animals arrive at our shelter. At 9 years old, Shadow was in need of dental surgery, a costly procedure that can financially burden some families. Unfortunately, many of the cats that end up in our shelter are in need of dental work, which highlights the importance of preventative care and routine vet visits. Shadow's teeth were in pretty bad shape, and he was losing hair due to stress. Our onsite clinic team was able to quickly address his needs and restore his health. Once his confidence returned, he began to show his sweet personality and he was finally adopted. His adopter, Katie, says, "He has a powerful purr and is the most affectionate and patient cat we've ever known."



Joy



Ruby



Lulu



Scarlette

Tail-Waggin' Fun

The shelter environment can be stressful for animals, especially those in the kennel. Strange sights and smells, loud barking, and strangers stopping by to visit throughout the day can be hard on even the most laid back dog. Time spent outside the shelter can be extremely beneficial to the mental health of our animals, and our Beach Buddies program is an initiative designed to offer our canine residents exactly that - an afternoon spent out and about with a member of our community.

Our Beach Buddies program launched last July, and it has been very well received by the public as well as our shelter animals. Every Monday, human buddies can pick up their canine counterpart between the hours of 11am and 5pm. Suggested adventures include going for walks, hanging out at home, or visiting a new location on a pre-approved list of fun, dog-friendly places. No matter the destination, all of our dog participants appreciate the extra attention and the time spent in a different environment. Furthermore, these outings offer extra socialization for these animals, which can help make them more adoptable.

Since its launch last summer, 75 shelter pups have benefited from this program. Their human buddies have shared how much fun they had, and the canine buddies come back more relaxed and ready for a nap. Beach Buddies also provides important feedback from participants about our animals' personalities, their likes and dislikes, how well they manage car rides, and possible behavioral needs. This information helps the shelter team better understand what type of home will be best for the dog, which ultimately helps us find the perfect match.

As the weather warms up, this is a great opportunity to participate in this beneficial program! All participants must sign up in advance so we can match you with an appropriate animal based on your comfort level and interests. If you'd like to participate in Beach Buddies, visit vbspca.com/beach-buddies. These spots typically book up, so plan your doggie date in advance!

The Gift of a Holiday Weekend Away

Each year the VBSPCA Holiday Elf program invites members of the public to temporarily foster our canine residents over the Christmas holiday. A total of 13 dogs got to enjoy a long weekend away from the shelter thanks to our holiday elves. One "elf family" even ended up adopting their holiday foster! We look for fosters over Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year holidays. To participate, email foster@vbspca.com

Innovation



The Virginia Beach SPCA clinic has been serving the community for over 50 years; however, the demand for our veterinary services has increased significantly since 2020. As staffing challenges continue to interrupt many industries, and as vet shortages have resulted in clinic closures and decreased services, the VBSPCA clinic team continues to adapt to meet the growing needs of our community.

In just over 2,000 square feet of space, our 5 veterinarians and their support staff are able to provide wellness and illness care, spay/neuter surgeries, and specialty surgeries to thousands of animals each year, including both our public clients and shelter pets. More recently, we have become a critical resource for local clinics by providing emergency surgery services to those who are experiencing financial hardship. We were recently called upon to assist with an injured Chihuahua whose family had nowhere else to turn. Due to the high cost of treating the Chihuahua's leg, the family thought euthanasia or surrender were their only options. However, our clinic team pooled resources from the community and came up with a care plan that saved the life of the animal while also allowing the family to keep their beloved companion. This is just one example of the countless stories that unfold in our clinic every day. This is only possible because of the generous donors who support our mission.



New Clinic Service

The VBSPCA Clinic now offers laser treatments, which helps reduce inflammation, decrease pain, and improve healing. Laser appointments can be made for a number of medical conditions while also speeding up the recovery process for animals who have undergone surgery. This is an innovative technology that will be of great benefit to both the animals in our shelter as well as public pets. To learn more visit vbspca.com/clinic.

Dedication



Caroline

This nine-year-old created Caroline's BARKery to sell homemade dog treats and toys. She raised over \$2,000 to purchase the items we needed most!

COMPASSIONATE KIDS

Helping Animals In Need

If you stopped by the Virginia Beach SPCA any time during the holiday season, you could clearly see that our community did not forget about our animals during their holiday shopping trips. Our lobby was often filled with treats, toys, blankets, and cleaning supplies. Perhaps some of the most inspiring moments of the holiday season were the many visits from young donors. They combined their creativity and love for animals to come up with fun ways to help their furry friends. Here's a look at a few of these kind-spirited kids.



Lane & Carter

along with their brother Colin (not pictured), kicked off the new year by donating money they raised from their lemonade stand.



Caroline

When Caroline turned 7 years old, she asked friends and family to donate to the VBSPCA animals instead of buying her a gift.



Brady

Giving to our animals is a holiday tradition for Brady. The 14 year old collected cash donations and a car full of items from our Wish List.



Elisa, Amalie, Avery, & Sydney

This foursome holds a bake sale every December and donates the proceeds to our shelter animals.

Collaboration

Home For The Holidays

It was a happy new year for hundreds of animals thanks to a special collaboration between one local business and our area shelters. The annual Home for the Holidays adoption promotion returned for the 13th year, providing a pathway for 282 shelter animals to ring in the new year with their new families.

Designed to encourage animal adoption during the holiday season, the generous people at Priority Automotive provide funding so that area shelters can discount their canine and feline adoption fees by 50%. Chesapeake Animal Services, the Norfolk SPCA, and the Virginia Beach SPCA were each fortunate to receive this special funding which helped reduce the financial burden on families. This discount meant more this past year than ever before as many families have been hard hit by the lingering effects of the pandemic.

The promotion launched on December 4th and ran through December 23rd, at which point all funds were used. At the VBSPCA alone, 147 animals were adopted during Home for the Holidays, including Buddy who had been waiting for a family for 11 months. Congratulations to our new pet parents, and a special thank you to Priority Automotive for making second chances possible for so many animals!



58 DOGS



41 CATS



31 PUPPIES



135 KITTENS



*17 SM. ANIMALS

*small animal adoptions were not covered by Home For The Holidays funds, but their adoptions were partly due to the promotion that drove foot traffic to the shelters



PRIORITY
AUTOMOTIVE

Empathy



VBSPCA Pet Pantry

- Cat Food
- Dog Food
- Pet Toys
- Enrichment Items

Pet Pantry is available to pet parents experiencing financial hardship. Visit vbspca.com/petpantry for details.

Helping Pet Parents During Tough Times

Part of the Virginia Beach SPCA's mission is to provide resources to families to keep pets in homes. From behavior support to educational resources, our mission extends beyond the shelter and into the community. One such service that has become increasingly important over the past year is our Pet Pantry. Our pantry is available to families facing financial hardship to ensure that pets have the food and enrichment they need to remain healthy and in their homes. The animal-human bond is central to what we do, and we strive to protect those relationships whenever possible.

The VBSPCA is very lucky to be able to provide this resource. Since our friends at Purina provide all of the food for our canine and feline residents, all donated food goes directly to the pantry. Additionally, any extra treats, toys, or other pet supply donations that are not currently needed at the VBSPCA are made available to Pet Pantry clients. In 2021, the VBSPCA provided food and other pet supplies to 21 families in need.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Pet Pantry is often stocked well beyond the level of client demand. Since other shelters and rescues may not receive the level of support our shelter does, we provide any unused Pet Pantry items to shelter partners. Last year we were able to provide food and other pet supplies to Australian Shepherds 4-Ever, Bertie County Humane Society, Dogs Deserve Better Eastern Shore, Little Farm Sanctuary, and PETA.

If you or someone you know is facing economic hardship, you can fill out an application for our Pet Pantry services at the VBSPCA Shelter.

Please note: we cannot accept donations of medications, medicated shampoos, or open bags of food.

Associate Highlights

At the Virginia Beach SPCA, much of our focus rests on providing compassionate care to our animals. However, we cannot provide this care without our dedicated team of animal welfare professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Each year we honor a few special members of our team who have gone above and beyond in representing our mission in action. We are so proud of our 2021 VBSPCA employee award recipients!



Nelson-Mako Mission Award Cat Walker

The Nelson-Mako Award is presented each year to a VBSPCA associate who exhibits an exceptional commitment to the spirit of our mission and serves as a true hero to our animals. This year, our most prestigious award went to Cat Walker. For nearly 20 years, Cat has been serving the animals, the community, and our fellow staff members. As our Isolation and Foster Manager, Cat ensures our most vulnerable animals receive the specialized care they need. She is respected and appreciated by all her peers, and she is most certainly deserving of this recognition.



Employee of the Year Jen Castleberry

Veterinary Assistant Jen Castleberry is our 2021 Employee of the Year. She is known around the VBSPCA Clinic for her cheerful demeanor and her willingness to jump in wherever she is needed. Jen is credited with saving countless lives with her diligent post-operative care of both shelter animals and public pets. She is also renowned for her cat-wrangling skills and can be counted on to handle even the trickiest feline with ease.

Collaboration Award
Jessica Ryder

Community Award
Suzy Swims

Innovation Award
Mandi Kowaleski

Dedication Award
Lacey Lopez

Empathy Award
Kate Yeager

Joy Award
Sam Buryanek

2022 brings new energy to our Human Resource initiatives. First on the list is the revitalization of our onboarding process to better prepare new associates on their journey through the VBSPCA. Employees can also look forward to wellness and team building activities throughout the year to keep spirits up and boost morale. We have also redirected resources toward improved support services so associates can access the tools needed for better self care. Animal welfare is not easy and our team works extremely hard, so we are very happy to be able to provide more support to the people who show up for the animals every day.

If you are interested in supporting these celebratory initiatives, please contact hr@vbspca.com. We have a menu of opportunities available, and they range from bagels for breakfast to a movie night out. Any and all support is greatly appreciated.



VIRGINIA BEACH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

3040 Holland Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
(757) 427-0070
vbspca.com

VBSPCA ANNUAL PARTNERS



PURINA
Shelter Champions



closet*factory*
the art of organization



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.

