

SPRING 2022



VIRGINIA BEACH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

PAWSITIVE PRESS

A Newsletter For Kids



**Tips For
Training**

**Make Your
Own Pet Toy**

**The Inside Scoop
On Pet Cleanup**

The Inside Scoop

Why Pet Cleanup Matters

Kids like you often promise their parents that if they are allowed to get a pet, they will help take care of their furry friend. It's important to follow through on that promise! By caring for your pet, you not only learn about responsibility but also play a big role in their health and happiness.

While cleaning up after your pet isn't very fun, it's a very important job. Here are some general rules to make sure you are behaving as a responsible pet owner.



Pick Up After Your Pooch - It doesn't matter if your pup goes to the bathroom in your backyard or while on a walk: you should always pick up the poop! Dog waste is a pollutant and is bad for the environment. If it is left on the ground, it can get washed into our waterways and cause algae and weeds to grow. That can shut down beaches and other bodies of water for swimming, fishing, and other fun activities! Not picking up after your dog can also make humans and other animals sick since parasites, bacteria, and viruses can be passed from the waste to the soil.

Clean Cats - For your feline friends, it is important to make sure their litter box is cleaned regularly. If a litter box is too dirty, your cat may not want to use it and go potty some place they shouldn't. You should scoop each litter box every day. You also need to change the litter as needed: that is usually once or twice a week if you use non-clumping litter, or once or twice a month if you use clumping litter.

Smell-Free Small Animals - Enclosures can get pretty stinky if they aren't kept clean. For rabbits, you should clean their cage once or twice a week. Rabbits can even be litter box trained, so that can help keep their environment even more tidy. For other pocket pets like guinea pigs, rats, gerbils, hamsters, and mice, you should remove soiled bedding and droppings from their enclosure every day.

Remember to always wash your hands after cleaning up after your pet.

Thank you for being responsible!

Make a Toy for Your Pet

Our furry friends also enjoy getting new toys to help keep them active or make them think. We've put together some craft projects so that you can make a toy that is safe and fun! To find instructions to make a toy for a dog, cat, or small animal, scan this QR code or visit vbspca.com/crafts.



Photo Credit
SimplyBVermont

Tips for Training

Just like kids, pets like to learn! You can teach your dog or cat how you would like them to behave or even how to do tricks. The Virginia Beach SPCA recommends using a method called positive reinforcement to train your furry friend. This method will help your pet learn your house and lifestyle rules in a way that is fun and enjoyable for both of you!

Positive reinforcement is simple - you reward your pet immediately after they do what you would like them to do. Let's say you've been working with your dog to teach them to sit. You would tell them to sit, and as soon as your pup sits, you give them a reward such as a treat. With some practice, your dog or cat will begin to associate good things with the wanted behavior, making them more likely to do it again.



Step 1: Choose a Reward

Rewards options include treats, toys, praise, or affection. Have an adult at home help you figure out what your furry friend enjoys the most!



Step 2: Timing is Everything

Make sure you give the reward right after your pet completes the behavior. In our example of teaching a dog to "sit," reward your pup as soon as he sits.



Step 3: Practice Makes Perfect

The more you work with your pet, the faster they will learn! It is important that everyone in the family uses the same training words so that your pet doesn't become confused.

Positive reinforcement is a great way to bond with your pet. Just remember, if your dog or cat seems frustrated or confused, it's best to take a break.

VBSPCA Animal Awareness Cards

Collect all four and win a prize!

Each edition of the Pawsitive Press will feature a VBSPCA animal. Collect four Animal Awareness Cards and bring them in to the VBSPCA to receive a special prize.

Aura gets along with pretty much everyone and everything. She's good with cats, dogs, kids, she enjoys being brushed and sitting in a window and watching the world go by. Aura does have something called a "heart murmur," which means her heart makes an abnormal sound when it beats. A murmur is a sign of heart disease, so Aura will need follow up care to make sure she is on the best treatment plan to keep her healthy.

If you are looking for a furry friend and think you have the perfect home for Aura, come by the shelter to meet her.



Here's Looking at You, Kids!

Congratulations Tenley

for winning our Writing from the Heart Contest!

Tenley is 10 years old and submitted a story called "Friends and Field Trips," which showcased the values of compassion and kindness. Tenley hopes to be an author when she grows up, and we think she's off to a great start! ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



Want to participate in our next activity for kids?

Check out our May Kindness Calendar and help spread kindness in our community. Print out your calendar at vbspca.com/virtual-activity.

Thank You

To Our 2022 Humane Education Partner



VBSPCA.COM

3040 HOLLAND RD. VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

Upcoming Fun

Change for Change

Our coin collecting challenge returns this summer! Look for details on how to pick up a canister and raise money to help animals in need.

Beach Buddies

On Mondays and Wednesdays, we allow families to take a shelter pup out on an adventure! Find more information at vbspca.com/beach-buddies.

Don't forget you can always play our arcade by visiting vbspca.com/animal-heroes