



VBSPCA

July 2022

Fostering
Saves Lives

Youth
Summer Events

Arlo
Happy Tails

CREATURE CHRONICLES

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Chase, Cover Model Photo Credit: Kate Baldwin

Chase is a one year old Terrier mix who loves to play tug of war. He gets along with other dogs and enjoys hanging out with his canine roommates at the shelter. If you have a treat in your hand, Chase will be sure to pay attention to anything you have to say! He will no doubt make a great walking buddy for whoever is lucky enough to adopt this handsome hunk.



Homeless animals
are depending on you

VBSPCA
Kennel Sponsorship

This cabin is sponsored by
Charlie, MoMo, and Mr. Jed
So all cats have homes.

SPONSOR A CAT CABIN, DOG KENNEL, OR CRITTER CABIN

2022 VBSPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leila Bradley (Board Chair)
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Scott Taylor (Past Chair)

Heather Andrews, DVM
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Letter From Derby Brackett



The tempo of the past 6 months is a joyous change to the cautious nature of the past 2 years. While still careful to protect the safety and health of those around us, we have been able to gather together to celebrate the connection between people and their pets once again. The attendance and vitality at our gala in April was a clear indication that people are ready to get out and support their favorite causes. I think we all had a great time together under the twilight stars

at New Realm. I am grateful that so many generous souls have remained loyal to the animals under such challenging circumstances. We continue to find support through so many channels- donors, volunteers, members, our partners in animal welfare, and our supporters in the community. Our mission is sustained by these caring individuals and allows us to continue to focus on our vision of quality care for all of the animals that come to the VBSPCA.

As we turn our attention to the next 6 months, we find our shelter - like so many in our region- full of animals in need of homes. There are many circumstances causing this increase in population, primarily pets being surrendered combined with the very busy season of kittens and puppies. We are indebted to our foster network for helping us find viable solutions for our youngest animals, and we are grateful to our staff for working hard for our animals, whether providing resources to keep them with their owners or finding the best forever home with a new adopter. It has been a very busy time for all in animal welfare this spring, and we don't anticipate any slow down for the immediate future. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to managing and caring for a very heavy population of deserving companions.

Our clinic has been busier than ever. Vaccine clinics, spay/neuter surgeries, and general illness visits have been compounded by more urgent cases as the lack of accessible veterinary care has increased. Veterinary clinics are stretched thin with staffing shortages while the number of animals in need seems to be growing. Our staff has adapted to provide public pets with additional services like emergency surgeries and laser treatments whenever possible while still caring for our many shelter animals. The VBSPCA clinic and Neuter Scooter will continue to be fully operational, providing quality veterinary care to our community in need.

We are at the beginning stages of planning for our next 3-year strategic plan to take us through to 2026. If I have learned anything over the past 2 years, it is that our mission of

compassion is desperately needed in our community and that our business model to sustain that vision must be agile, adapting to the circumstances presented to us. We must balance the compassion of animal sheltering with resources needed for the community- accessible veterinary care, behavioral support for animals in the home, humane education for the children, and connections for people and their pets. Our strategic plan will center on fiscal stability at the core while exploring areas for real growth in clinic services and expanded animal care. We will focus on our partnerships in animal welfare to create collaborative solutions for all of the animals in our region. We will build on our community connections through redesigning our humane education program; offering more volunteer opportunities in multiple areas; providing enrichment paths for our animals, whether through our Beach Buddies or Visiting Paws programs; holding events such as our Puttin' for Paws golf tournament on October 7th to engage our fellow animal lovers (and golfers!)- all targeted to creating lasting relationships with our stakeholders: adopters, pet owners, donors, members, and volunteers.

The momentum of the past months has created new energy, and we want to capture and build on the positive outcomes; facing the new day with open-mindedness, hope, commitment, and the resilience that has carried us successfully through the past 2 years.

The animals of our community deserve the very best and our intention is to be there when they need us. And they always need us...

For the animals,

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

Derby D. Brackett
CEO



Derby and her husband Doug attending our 2022 Wags & Whiskers Gala

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Mitchum Family

Photo Credit: Zoe Grant



Alex, Mary, Sloan, and Palmer

The Mitchum family loves their pets and their community. They understand the importance of pet companionship, which inspires their support of the Virginia Beach SPCA. The Mitchums include Alex, Mary, and their two girls, along with Alex's parents, Elza and Cathy. They have aided the VBSPCA in a number of important ways, most recently supporting our annual gala through sponsorship, volunteerism, and a generous donation to our Miracle Medical Fund. We are grateful to have the Mitchums as part of the VBSPCA community, and you can learn more about them below in our Q&A with Alex.

Elza and Cathy Mitchum



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

A: The Mitchum family has supported the Virginia Beach SPCA for nearly 10 years. Scott Taylor, past president, and Emily Mitchum Franklin, past Wags & Whiskers Gala chair, were instrumental in getting us involved with this impressive and impactful organization. Scott and Emily knew this would be a great opportunity for us to support a valuable community resource.

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

A: We are inspired by the mission of the Virginia Beach SPCA to create a more humane and responsible community by eliminating animal suffering while increasing human compassion. Virginia Beach SPCA offers a variety of signature events and opportunities to have fun while supporting a great cause. We feel our volunteerism is making an actual difference in the lives of the animals.

Q: What part of today's VBSPCA and path forward are you most excited about?

A: The most impressive aspect of the Virginia Beach SPCA is the number of animals sheltered in conjunction with the high adoption rate each year. The foster program provides specialized care to animals who are not yet prepared for the adoption process or shelter environment. Approximately 1,100 animals benefit from the foster program each year.

Q: How have pets impacted your life?

A: The benefits of owning a pet are endless. Throughout our lives, we have been lucky enough to own extraordinary dogs. They are not "just" animals but are truly a part of our family. Our children enjoy growing up with Bentley and Walker, who provide unconditional love, loyalty, and companionship. The playfulness and joyfulness of our dogs make our family complete.

Q: How have your philanthropic values impacted your life?

A: Giving takes many forms - volunteering, donating, and sharing your talents. My parents, Elza and Cathy Mitchum have done them all. They have a deep commitment to making our community a better place, both individually and through our business, C&M Industries, Inc. Giving back to the community is something they have instilled in our family. They inspire us to continue their legacy of giving. At the end of the day, it's about rolling up your sleeves and getting involved.



Mary Mitchum and Angie Lombardi

Q: Why do you choose to support the VBSPCA?

A: The dedication and leadership of the Virginia Beach SPCA team, board of directors, and volunteers instill confidence in us that our investment will have a lasting impact in helping connect families with animals who need a loving and caring home.

Q: Please share a memory that captures our mission.

A: My wife, Mary Beth, was a co-chair with Angie Lombardi for the 2022 Annual Wags & Whiskers Gala. It was an experience that many will never forget. It was a huge success thanks to the support of generous sponsors and devoted volunteers. The Twilight Extravaganza was a sold-out event, raising a record \$307,102 to help the thousands of animals in need of a second chance. This night was indeed a celebration of the Virginia Beach SPCA's mission and the amazing support of our community.

VBSPCA PROGRAMS

DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE & PETS OF OUR COMMUNITY



PET PARENTS



Low Cost

**Illness and Wellness
Appointments**

**Walk-In Vaccine
Clinics** Mondays & Saturdays



Pet Resource Center

Helpful Online Pet Care Tips

Behavior Support Line

behaviorsupport@vbspca.com

Pet Surrender Services

By appointment only



Pet Pantry

Food and enrichment toys
for those experiencing
financial hardship

Pet Retail

All retail sales benefit the animals



ANIMAL LOVERS

Volunteer Opportunities

Cattery | Kennel | Events | Humane Ed

Beach Buddies

Giving Adoptable Dogs
A Taste Of The Good Life



Fundraising Events

Attend a VBSPCA signature event
or host a fundraiser of your own

Fostering Opportunities

Provide TLC to animals that are not yet
prepared for the adoption process



VBSPCA Membership

Provide ongoing support for the animals
and receive exclusive member perks



Visiting Paws

Provide temporary animal
companionship to those in need

Employment Opportunities

Join a passionate team of
animal welfare professionals



COMPASSIONATE KIDS

Animal Heroes

Learn about animal care through
a fun and interactive video arcade

Reading Programs

Read to our shelter animals or
participate in challenges from home



Pawsitive Press

A newsletter just for kids

Subscribe online to receive
it in your mailbox at home!



Seasonal

Online Activities

Art opportunities, craft projects,
kindness calendars, and more

Educational Visits

Available in person or virtually



Group Tours

Bring your group for a private
tour of the VBSPCA



**Junior Volunteer
Opportunities**

Ages 14 and up



Empathy



SURRENDERING YOUR PET

When You're Forced To Say Goodbye

It's a choice pet parents never want to face: whether to keep their pet or take measures to find them a new home. This decision can come up for a variety of reasons. A family may be moving and unable to take their furry friend with them. Their pet may not be getting along with other members of the household. The previous owner may have passed away and their family members can't keep their beloved pet.

No matter the reason, the VBSPCA understands that life can throw you curveballs. Part of our mission is to be there for the pets that need someplace to go. While we aim to create lasting adoptions and try to provide solutions to keep as many animals in homes as possible, sometimes there is no other option than to surrender your pet to a shelter.

In 2021, 861 pets were surrendered to the VBSPCA. That's roughly 33% of the animals that came through our shelter last year. The decision to surrender a pet is never easy, but our team lets each and every pet parent know that we will provide compassionate care for their animal until they find a new home.



Tristyn, a nine year old Australian Terrier mix, arrived at our shelter in May because he was not getting along with young children in his previous home. Our kennel team introduced him to some of the smaller dogs in our care, and he enjoyed having canine roommates while he waited for his forever home. After a month in our care, Tristyn was happily adopted.

If you or someone you know are thinking about surrendering a pet, we're here to help. Our Behavior Support Line is available to troubleshoot behavioral issues. Send us an email at behaviorsupport@vbspca.com and someone from our team will be in touch.

If you are in a position where you need to surrender your pet, contact us at info@vbspca.com or 757-427-0070.

Celebrating Our Mission



Wags & Whiskers Gala TWILIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA

Nearly 400 animal lovers gathered at New Realm Brewing Co. on Saturday, April 2nd for the VBSPCA's Twilight Extravaganza. Our annual Wags and Whiskers Gala returned after a two year hiatus and it was quite a night! Games were played, cocktails were enjoyed, animals were cuddled, and the music lasted all night long. We also had the honor of recognizing Rob and Tonya Deveau as our Compassion Award Recipients, and Morris and Jan Fine as our Lifesaver Award Recipients. Both couples have made a tremendous impact on our shelter and our community, and you can read more about them online at vbspca.com/gala. The night brought in a record breaking \$307,102 for the animals, which makes it our most successful Wags and Whiskers Gala to date. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to all who made that possible. We are already looking forward to our next gala in April 2023!



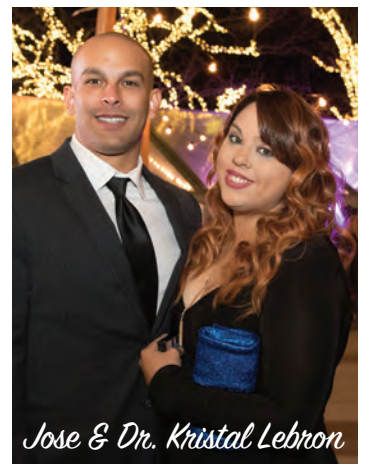
Morris & Jan Fine



Rob & Tonya Deveau



Bill Campbell



Jose & Dr. Kristal Lebron

With Our Annual Gala

We are deeply grateful to the following sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped make our gala a success



DeCroix Family
—FOUNDATION—



EVIN & VICKIE
THOMPSON



DOUG & DERBY
BRACKETT

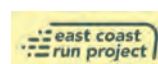
MORRIS & JAN
FINE



BARRY & GINNY
CROSS



BILL & MEG
CAMPBELL



2022 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs

Angie Lombardi and Mary Mitchum

Committee

Board Members: Leila Bradley, Ashley Knepper, Amy Mallet **Staff:** Derby Brackett, Kate Baldwin, Ashley Cooney, Emily Peck
Volunteers: Joan Bertucci, Jessica Ireland, Brittany Nunnally, Elissa Frantz Pierson, Whitney Prentiss

Volunteers

Manda Apiag
Jennifer Bauter
Erin Bittner
Emily Blevins
Katie Crawford
Shawn Drew
Will Jensen

Autumn Kistler
Mandi Kowaleski
Raymond LaSalle
Marilyn Lombardi
Michelle Loncto
Lacey Lopez
Rachel Lowe

Summer Lowe
Christine Ly
Ashley Olivero
Emily Olley
Alma Pait
Sarah Parrish
Susan Phillips

Karen Pinneo
Laura Poole
Madison Rankin
Andrea Reyes
Jessica Ryder
Suzy Swims
Carol Tiggs

Theresa Tsutsui
Lyndsey Waldrop
Cat Walker
Shannon Wilson
Kate Yeager

Innovation

After 2 years of canceled or postponed youth activities, we are happy to announce that we have added fun opportunities for kids back on the calendar. You can learn more about our summer happenings below. We are also excited to let our community know that we are facilitating a humane education focus group later this summer to help us redefine the future of humane education at the VBSPCA. After such a long period of postponed programs, it is the perfect time to innovate and adapt the program to meet the current needs of the community. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of the group with our community later this year.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS



TAILS & TALES

\$25

An animal themed reading and craft experience for children ages 6-10. A guest reader will read a book to the group, followed by a craft activity, animal visits, and a shelter tour! All children will leave with a bookmark, a pencil, and their very own craft.

June 25 | July 9 | July 23 | August 6 | 11:00am to 12:30pm



TALE FOR TWO SUMMER CHALLENGE

\$25

Readers will be paired with an animal companion to help improve the experience of reading, while also giving our shelter animals extra social time. Readers are asked to commit to 5 reading sessions between June 15th and August 31st, and all kids who complete the challenge will receive a VBSPCA t-shirt!

Wednesdays | Fridays | Sundays | 11:30am to 12:30pm



YOUTH SHELTER TOURS

\$50

Tours last approximately 45 minutes and offer a behind the scenes look at the cattery, kennel, and small animal room, followed by hands-on interaction with at least one of our shelter animals (as selected by tour guide). Tours must be scheduled in advance and are based on availability.



Ongoing Youth Opportunities

Animal Heroes Arcade- An interactive online learning experience

Tale for Two- Pairs a reader with an animal to make reading more fun

Seasonal Activities- Educational activity or challenge each season

Pawsitive Press- Children's seasonal newsletter

Dedication



FOSTERING SAVES LIVES

Providing Specialized Care to Vulnerable Animals

Fosters are a critical part of our mission. These dedicated volunteers open their homes to animals in need of specialized care before they are ready for the adoption process. Many of the animals who need time in foster homes are young puppies and kittens.

While there is a lot of work that goes into these vulnerable animals, our fosters agree this labor of love is worth it. "It's hard to choose one favorite thing about fostering," says Mallory Bashaw, who has fostered 14 VBSPCA puppies since October 2020. "I love watching them learn how to puppy."

Jayson Schwantes has been fostering felines since 2015, 67 in total. He often takes on special cases of mother cats along with their litters. "We like fostering

the moms with babies because we know there's a need; not everyone wants a 10-12 week commitment," Schwantes explains. "We really get to know them having them that long... and we like seeing them develop from being little, blind, and helpless into independent kittens."

The VBSPCA provides our fosters with everything they need to care for their houseguests. Another perk of fostering is unlimited kisses, wags, and purrs.

Both Schwantes and Bashaw have also adopted one of their temporary guests. Schwantes was especially attached to a litter of seven. One feline, Ella, bonded with him and is now a permanent member of the family. Bashaw has adopted two of her former foster puppies: Blue and Stevie.



If you'd like to become a foster, visit vbspca.com/foster.

Collaboration

Working Together for the Animals

Bella came from a life of neglect. She had been kept outside with three other small dogs until her owners turned her and her canine companions over to PETA. Bella was transported directly to the VBSPCA where our team was ready to help. She arrived filthy and severely matted, but that didn't prevent her from sharing affection with everyone she met. Our team shaved Bella's mats and gave her a bath before settling her into a kennel. Within days, she was adopted into a loving home. A journey from neglect to a loving home was only possible because of collaboration.

Bella's tale is just one of many successful stories that were made possible thanks to our transfer relationships. The VBSPCA actively partners with other animal shelters and rescues across the region and beyond in an effort to provide collaborative resources to animals in need. Sometimes animals are brought to us due to a lack of space at another shelter. On other occasions we take in animals in need of medical care that we are able to provide through our veterinary clinic and Miracle Medical Fund. Some animals arrive here simply because they have a better chance of being adopted due to the 3000 visitors who come to the shelter each. In situations when an animal is not thriving in the shelter environment, we rely on rescue partners who can provide focused care until the animal is adopted. Whatever the reason, the many challenges that homeless animals face cannot be solved by one team alone.

The need for collaboration among shelter partners will always exist. While our philosophies and programs may differ, our shared focus on helping homeless animals is strong and united. The current homeless animal crisis has shelters across the country at capacity, each one taking a creative approach to finding and making space for animals so that euthanasia can be avoided whenever possible. The need for collaboration is relevant now more than ever, and the VBSPCA is focusing transfer efforts on our local partners to help alleviate the current crisis here in Hampton Roads. In May, over 75% of the animals transferred to the VBSPCA were from our local shelter partners. Marco and Hiccup, on the next page, are two success stories made possible by our local transfer relationships.

This crisis is not going anywhere anytime soon, so we ask and encourage our community members to support the VBSPCA and our local shelter partners through adoptions and donations. We need your help to overcome what lies ahead.





Marco's Adoption Day

Marco

Marco came to the VBSPCA from our friends at Chesapeake Animal Services in February when they had reached capacity and needed help. Marco had severe skin allergies that had led to hair loss and extremely itchy skin. The VBSPCA clinic team gave him allergy medication and put him on a special diet. He became a favorite among our cattery team, who made sure he received enrichment and affection while in our care. Three months after coming through our doors, Marco found his forever family.



Hiccup

The Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter brought Hiccup to us in April. His history was heartbreaking, as he had chewed off his own foot. It appeared that a tether was wound around his leg, preventing movement and causing pain. Despite these tragic circumstances, Hiccup arrived at our shelter with his tail wagging and full of affection. Hiccup was rushed to our clinic, where our team quickly cleaned the wound and made him comfortable for the night. His leg was amputated the following day, after which point he spent time in a foster home to recover. One month later, Hiccup was happily adopted.



HAPPY TAILS

Photo Credit: Patricia Gee



Arlo

Adopted December 2021

Arlo came to the VBSPCA in December 2021. His previous owners had moved and no longer had space for him to run and play, so they made the difficult decision to surrender him to the VBSPCA. Within a couple of days, the two year old Basset Hound caught the eye of a couple who had taken a day off to visit a few local shelters in hopes of adopting a dog. "After a minute [inside the visiting room], Arlo was happily getting rubs and checking us out," says Ali. "Bassetts in general are hard to resist!"

Once they met Arlo, Ali and her husband, Steve, knew he was the one. While Arlo was a little unsure the first few nights, he successfully settled in with a little reassurance. He's especially happy to have a large backyard to explore. Now Arlo goes just about everywhere with his pet parents, including regular visits to the farmers market.

"It's truly like Arlo has been with us his whole life," says Ali. "He just fit right into our routines and loves to be right next to us wherever we go."





VBSPCA

Puttin' For Paws

Charity Golf Tournament

**Red Wing Lake Golf Course
Virginia Beach • October 7, 2022**

Our annual golf tournament is back! We invite you to join us for 18 holes of golf, games, and fun, all in support of the homeless animals of the Virginia Beach SPCA. As valued supporters of our community, your participation helps us care for over 3,000 animals who will come to us this year in desperate need of a second chance.

Sponsorship Deadline - Sept. 26th | Registration Deadline - Oct. 3rd

11 a m

Check-In & Lunch
Range Opens

12 p m

Shotgun Start

Followed by Dinner & Awards

Register online at vbspca.com/golf



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



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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.

