

SUMMER 2022



VIRGINIA BEACH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

PAWSITIVE PRESS

A Newsletter For Kids



**Making
Furry Friends**

Pupsicle Recipe

**Be “In the Know”
about Guinea Pigs**

Get to Know Guinea Pigs

When most people think of the animals at the Virginia Beach SPCA, they picture the many dogs and cats we have at our shelter. But the VBSPCA also cares for a number of small animals including guinea pigs! In fact, we helped **122 guinea pigs** find their forever homes last year.

Guinea pigs make great pets. Not only are they cute, they are very active and social animals. Because of this, guinea pigs need to spend time outside of their enclosures and with their people every day in order for them to be happy and healthy!

While it is important for you to spend quality time with your pet guinea pig, you must remember to be very gentle with them so they do not get hurt or startled. Make sure you put one hand underneath them and the other over their back when you are picking them up. Be sure to ask an adult if it is okay for you to handle the guinea pig first.

Here are some interesting facts about guinea pigs:

- Guinea pigs can live to be 5-8 years old.
- Guinea pigs communicate by making a variety of noises including squeaks, grunts, chirps, and whistles.
- A guinea pig's teeth never stop growing! It is important for them to have things like hay, chew sticks, toys, and treats to help keep their teeth healthy.
- Guinea pigs are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. In addition to grass hay and pellets, they should eat a small amount of bite-sized vegetables and a slice of fruit each day.



Fun Fact: When guinea pigs get excited, they hop up and down. This is called “popcorning”.

Help Your Pup Beat The Heat

Help your dog stay cool by making fruit smoothie pupsicles! Start by adding some pup approved fruits such as strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, or bananas. Below is a top favorite recipe.

- 1 cup Frozen Banana Slices
- 2 tablespoons Greek Yogurt (OR water)
- 1 cup Frozen Strawberry Slices
- Dog Biscuits (use as sticks for pupsicle)

Blend fruit and yogurt until it forms a smoothie-like consistency. Spoon the mixture into popsicle molds. Freeze for 30 minutes, then add the dog biscuits and pop back into the freezer until solid (at least 6 hours).



Making Furry Friends

Summertime is here, which means you probably have more time to spend with your friends and pets! While it can be fun to introduce your human buddies to your furry friends, please remember that meeting new people can be scary for some animals. Here are some tips to make sure everyone gets along.

Always let your pet decide whether they want to meet your friend. Animals will approach new people on their own if they are feeling curious and friendly. If your pet is growling, hissing, cowering, or trying to get away, they are trying to tell you that they are not ready to say hello.



If your pet is sleeping, hiding, or eating, ask your friends to leave them alone. Animals don't always know if people can be trusted, so allow them to have space.

Sometimes pets get very excited while they play and become a bit rowdy. If this happens, take a break from playing so things don't get out of control.

If your friend is doing something that your pet does not like, ask them to stop or get an adult. While it might be a little uncomfortable, your furry friend needs you to be their voice!

Don't forget: always ask an adult if it is okay to say hello to an animal you do not know.

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.

Atushi is a 3 year old male guinea pig. He is a friendly and playful piggy. Atushi has lived with other guinea pigs in the past and would probably get along with a new friend. Snacking is his favorite pastime and he is hoping for a forever home where he can enjoy fresh fruits and veggies. If you're interested in meeting Atushi and his other small animal friends, visit them at the VBSPCA.



Atushi

Here's Looking at You, Kids!

Malia recently collected some of the items we need most as part of a school project. She dropped off a few wagonfuls of things like blankets, cleaning supplies, and toys. Our animals are very lucky to have so many people who support them!



Thank you to our 2022 Humane Education Partner



VBSPCA.COM

3040 HOLLAND RD. VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

Upcoming Fun

Shelter Tours - Available Now

Tour the VBSPCA shelter and meet our adoptable animals!
Visit vbspca.com/private-tours to book a tour.

Tails & Tales - August 6th

Listen to a story, make a craft, and meet an adoptable animal!
All children leave with their craft and some other VBSPCA swag.
Learn more at vbspca.com/tails-and-tales.

Fall Reading Challenge - Coming Soon

Complete reading challenges and earn prizes for your progress!