



June 2023

Beach Buddies

A Taste Of The Good Life

Havana Nights

Record-Breaking Gala

Bentley

Happy Tails

CREATURE CHRONICLES

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Waffle, Cover Model Photo Credit: Mandi Kowaleski

Waffle was surrendered to the VBSPCA in January 2023 when her previous owner could no longer care for her. She is the kind of cat who likes what she likes and isn't afraid to tell you what she wants. Waffle is very energetic and loves wand toys, puzzle toys, and cat scratchers.



*Homeless animals
are depending on you*

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Letter From Derby Brackett



We are nearly halfway through 2023, and so far there is one emotion that has become a theme for me this year - pride. I am so proud of the work we do for the animals and the support we receive from our community. There are numerous interactions - almost daily - that make me feel privileged to be a part of the Virginia Beach SPCA.

The year began with challenges from the freezing temperatures - a water pipe broke twice, wreaking havoc on our ability to care for the animals. Not only do the animals need water to drink, but the team relies on water to keep the shelter clean and clinic running. With innovative thinking and hard work, we were able to rent a tanker to get water where it needed to be - for the animals and for the shelter and clinic operations. We had to close the facility to the public while the pipe was repaired - a repair complicated by the pipe's location under large trees. Because we couldn't do laundry, the call went out for blankets and sheets and it was quickly answered. The conference room was soon overflowing with linens to bring comfort to the animals in our care. Unexpected facilities repairs can impact our operating budget; however, The Breeden Company stepped up to provide financial support for the repairs. All we had to do was ask and our community stepped up immediately to help in any way they could.

In February, we were able to represent the community once again in Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl. We had two contenders making us proud on the field but even more so because of the mission. Both pups, now adopted, joined us with their families at Smartmouth Pilot House for a celebratory viewing party sponsored by our new friends at Checkered Flag. It was a great day for furry teammates, football, and community bonding!

Recently, we have faced obstacles of overcrowding and illness that are prevalent in shelters throughout our community and across the nation. The VBSPCA team has worked diligently to keep our population healthy and our adoption doors open. We have aided our community partners by transferring in animals from facilities challenged with a lack of space. We have been buoyed by our volunteer foster network, which has taken in more animals to allow us to balance the number of animals in the shelter. We are so grateful for the foster families that allow staff to provide individualized care to more animals in need.

One of the best moments has been the tremendous success of our Wags and Whiskers Gala this spring. We transformed New Realm Brewing Company into a night in Havana and joyously celebrated the animals with so many friends. Made possible in part by presenting sponsor, Charles Barker Automotive, we danced, ate, played games, and cuddled fur babies. But more importantly, we raised over \$341,000 for the animals! The community didn't just come to party, they came to give. It was a proud moment for me personally to see all of the smiles as we raised our paddles higher.

These are simply a few highlights of the relationship we have with our community. We cherish the opportunity to welcome you into our shelter and clinic every day. We are proud to be a resource for your animals and we are honored to be the recipients of your loyal support.

I have said many times, we can't do our good work without the benevolence and the commitment from you.

With pride and sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature of Derby D. Brackett in black ink.

Derby D. Brackett
CEO



Kittens wonder what's next after receiving medication in our nursery



Wags & Whiskers Gala Co-Chair Angie Lombardi snuggles an adoptable pup



Bella stays warm and comfortable with a donated blanket

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Danielle Nance
Chief Advancement Officer

Photo Credit: Don Monteaux Photography



For 17 years, Danielle Nance has served nonprofit organizations focused on human services. In March she joined the Virginia Beach SPCA as Chief Advancement Officer, eager for the opportunity to serve both people and animals.

In this newly created role, Nance oversees the VBSPCA's fundraising and marketing efforts. Her arrival coincides with the start of a new strategic plan to guide the organization through the next three years as it combats the mounting challenges animal welfare organizations face across the country.

"I'm learning so much. I am blown away by all that the VBSPCA does," says Nance. "After seeing so many heartwarming stories firsthand, I am energized about the connections I get to make on behalf of the animals and this incredible team."

The VBSPCA will focus on several initiatives through 2025 including collaborating with shelters and rescues to provide alternative pathways to adoptions and counteract overcrowding; expanding low-cost and accessible veterinary services for the community; and redeveloping its humane education program.

Nance's strength in building relationships to connect people with causes will be a vital part of the next chapter in the VBSPCA's future. Most recently, she served as Vice President of Marketing and Development for Eggleston, where she led the organization through its first-ever major campaign, which raised just under \$3 million. Nance arrived at the VBSPCA ahead of the Wags and Whiskers Gala, its largest fundraising event of the year, where she was able to celebrate the mission alongside dedicated donors and new supporters alike.

"At the gala, I had many endearing conversations with donors about their beloved animals, past and present," recalls Nance. "I am inspired by the way the love of animals brings people together. It's such a wonderful, unique way to be connected to each other, and I'm all the more excited to be part of this mission after meeting so many wonderful VBSPCA supporters."

While Nance begins to introduce herself to donors and other community members, she's also getting to know the animals of the VBSPCA. Shortly after joining the team, she fostered a trio of puppies and "foster failed" with one of them. Yoda, pictured below, has now permanently joined the Nances' pack of two other pups.

Nance also serves on the VBSPCA's Executive Team, which recently expanded to include Director of Human Resources Sarah Parrish and Director of Clinic Operations Kindra Haymaker.



Danielle Nance, Chief Advancement Officer



Sarah Parrish, Director of Human Resources



Kindra Haymaker, Director of Clinic Operations

Dedication



EVERYDAY MIRACLES

Receiving The Medical Care They Need

Last October, four young kittens were dropped off at a local animal shelter, each of them missing a paw. It was clear they were victims of animal cruelty. They were quickly transferred to the Virginia Beach SPCA, where the clinic team amputated each affected leg. After spending months in a foster home recovering from surgery and growing strong and healthy enough for the adoption process, Bear, Clover, Cricket, and Trike found their forever homes earlier this year.

While many animal welfare organizations are forced to turn away animals in need of critical medical care, the VBSPCA is fortunate to have its own clinic. However, shelter medical costs add up to more than \$400,000 each year. We cannot provide more extensive treatments without community support. The Miracle Medical Fund ensures that every adoptable animal at the VBSPCA receives the medical care they need. From vaccines to heartworm treatment to specialized surgeries, this fund provides second chances to those who need extra help.

That includes animals like Bella, a 12 year old Shih Tzu mix who arrived at the VBSPCA in February after her previous owner passed away. The sweet senior needed a mass removal surgery and dental procedure, totaling over \$500 in medical fees. Thanks to a generous donor, Bella received the treatment she needed for her fresh start and was happily adopted in May.

How You Can Help

- Make a one-time donation for the amount of your choosing. Every dollar makes a difference. Visit vbspca.com/miracle-medical-fund.
- Become a member. All VBSPCA memberships support the Miracle Medical Fund. For as little as \$10 a month, you can provide dependable veterinary care. Visit vbspca.com/membership.



Community

Expanding Access to Affordable Veterinary Care

If you have recently tried to make a veterinary appointment for your pet, you likely encountered delays. It is estimated that up to 70% of U.S. households have furry family members. In addition to a growing demand for veterinary services, rising costs have kept some companion animals from getting the care they need.

This January, the Virginia Beach SPCA Clinic was awarded a \$200,000 grant from PetSmart Charities to improve access to affordable veterinary care in Hampton Roads. The grant money will increase the clinic's capacity to accommodate more clients by expanding staff and purchasing medical equipment.

"While there are a variety of options for low-cost veterinary services like spay/neuter surgeries and vaccines in Hampton Roads, many pet parents struggle to find affordable everyday care such as wellness and illness visits, dental surgeries, and urgent care," says Derby Brackett, CEO of the VBSPCA. "By increasing access to affordable, quality medical care, the VBSPCA hopes to keep more pets in homes and prevent animals from winding up in shelters due to financial obstacles."

The improvements made possible by this grant will not only help public pets, but shelter animals as well. Every single adoptable animal that comes through the VBSPCA Shelter receives medical care in the clinic.

Did you know?

The VBSPCA's Vaccine Clinics offer a variety of routine veterinary services including vaccinations, heartworm and FeLV/FIV tests, and preventatives. You don't even need an appointment! These walk-in services are open to the public and are not subject to income restrictions.

To learn more about the VBSPCA's low-cost veterinary clinic, visit vbspca.com/clinic.



Celebrating Our Mission



VBSPCA WAGS & WHISKERS GALA

This year's Wags and Whiskers Gala was a record-breaking affair! On April 29, 2023, more than 400 guests gathered at New Realm Brewing Co. to celebrate the mission of the Virginia Beach SPCA.

Together we raised over \$341,000 for the animals!

The theme was Havana Nights, which featured tropical cocktails, delicious food, adorable animals, lively games, and festive music. Additionally, we honored Scott and Katie Taylor as our Compassion Award recipients, and Bill Campbell received our Lifesaver Award. Their impact on the VBSPCA and the community serves as an inspiration to us all. We offer heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in the gala, which is our largest fundraising event of the year.



With Our Annual Gala

Thank you to the following sponsors, donors,
and volunteers who helped make the gala a success



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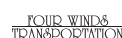
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Staff: Kate Baldwin, Derby Brackett, Ashley Cooney, Amber Dexter, Mandi Kowaleski, Danielle Nance, Emily Peck

Volunteers: Joan Bertucci, Jessica Ireland, Whitney Prentiss, Britnee Taylor

Volunteers

Heidi Agnew
Manda Apiag
Gina Baer
Mallory Bashaw
Emily Blevins
Katherine Bradshaw
Jen Castleberry
Marlene Cohen

Shawn Drew
Nolan Hall
Liz Hurtado
May Janssen
Will Jensen
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Jessica Ryder
Donna Schnaars
Michelle Schutz

Carol Tigges
Dave Wicks
Leslie Wicks
Shannon Wilson
Matt Wurzbarger



BEACH BUDDIES EXPANDS

Now offered Monday & Wednesdays

Dixie came to the Virginia Beach SPCA in January along with her young puppies. The one year old hound mix was a great mother, tending to her litter's every need until the pups were healthy enough to be adopted. One by one, the puppies went to their forever homes and Dixie found herself alone for what would turn out to be a long wait for a family of her own.

For dogs like Dixie, the Virginia Beach SPCA's Beach Buddies program can be a game changer. The program allows members of the community to sign up to take a shelter dog out for the day. In the warmer months, Beach Buddies is offered two days a week: Mondays and Wednesdays. The VBSPCA kennel team pairs pups up with registrants and provides them with everything they need for a successful dog adventure. The human buddies enjoy time with

an animal, the canine buddies get a much-needed break from the stressful shelter environment, and everyone wins.

In addition to taking VBSPCA pooches out of the shelter for a bit, the human buddies fill out report cards that reveal what the dogs are like in real world situations, which can lead to better matchmaking with potential adopters. Some canines have even been adopted thanks to the program!

As for Dixie, she became a frequent Beach Buddies participant and had rave reviews for her sweet and gentle nature. After four months in our care, she was finally adopted in May. Beach Buddies no doubt helped keep her spirits up as she waited for the right family to find her.

To learn more or register for Beach Buddies, visit vbspca.com/beach-buddies.



Empathy

Hope for the Future



Anna, Justice, and Leah from St. John the Apostle Catholic School dropped off items collected from their donation drive.

As the Virginia Beach SPCA and other shelters across the country face a growing homeless animal crisis, there is hope in the communities we serve. Time and again, the people of Hampton Roads and beyond step up and provide us with hope for the future through their generosity. It is especially inspiring to see area youth getting involved in philanthropy.

The National Junior Honor Society at St. John the Apostle Catholic School hosted a donation drive for gently used towels and blankets in May. The group created flyers and included information in their school newsletter to spread the word. Three members, Anna, Justice, and Leah, then dropped off two wagon loads of linens before visiting with some of our shelter animals. From organized groups to individual children, young people in our community are learning early on that they can make a difference.



Kingston Elementary students Anne and Lucy are members of a group called 'The People' who collected items for donation.



Six year old Jameson put out a donation box for his neighbors complete with a QR code to the VBSPCA Wish List web page.



Camryn, pictured with her sister, celebrated her birthday by collecting items for the animals in our care.

Our Top Wish List Items

New or Gently Used Items

Sheets, towels, washcloths, blankets (no knit or crochet)
Ceramic or metal food bowls
Plastic hiding huts and exercise wheels for small animals

New/Unopened Items Only

Dog treats & cat treats
Kong and Nylabone dog toys
Cat scratchers

Visit vbspca.com/wish-list for our full list as well as our Amazon Wish List.

Four new wheels for your four-legged friends.



At Charles Barker Automotive, we know that true success comes only when you're invested in your community. That's why we're proud to support the Virginia Beach SPCA. Supporting them means helping sick, injured and abandoned animals find the help and care they need until they are adopted into their new family. And if you're looking for a new vehicle to take home your next furever friend, we hope you'll stop by and discover that true excellence is yours when you're Riding with Charlie.



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Innovation

Connecting People and Pets through Technology

On the surface, technology and animals don't appear to go hand in paw. However, a few new high-tech solutions are enabling the Virginia Beach SPCA to better connect people and pets.

Visitor Portal

If you have recently stopped by to visit shelter animals or brought your pet to a Vaccine Clinic, you've likely noticed that there is a new digital system designed to improve your experience. Visitors and clients are asked to use their smartphones to scan a QR code that will enable them to sign into a customer portal. This ensures that shelter guests are assisted when they are ready to meet an animal or fill out an application, and clinic clients are seen in the order that they arrive.

Volunteer Portal

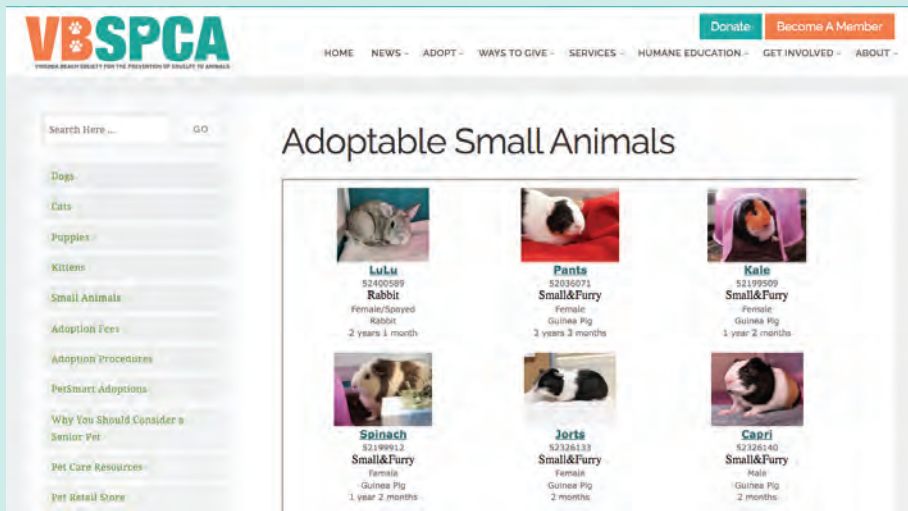
Earlier this month, the VBSPCA launched a new volunteer portal. This system features both a website log-in as well as an app, making it easier for volunteers to sign up for positions, log their hours, and push notifications to their calendar and email accounts.

Updated Clinic System

The VBSPCA Clinic will soon utilize an updated, cloud-based operating system that integrates information from all of the clinic's veterinary software. This upgrade will lead to better efficiencies, leaving more time for the clinic team to care for animals and build client relationships.

Don't forget!

You can find all of our adoptable animals on our website. We update the website as animals come in and are adopted out, so check back often! Visit vbspca.com/adoptable-animals.



HAPPY TAILS

Photo Credit: Patricia Gee



Bentley

Adopted June 2021

Bentley was transferred to the Virginia Beach SPCA in June 2021. A team from PETA convinced his previous owners to surrender the little Pomeranian mix when they found him chained outside, living in filth and limping on his rear right leg. The VBSPCA clinic team determined that Bentley had been shot, his leg broken and filled with buck shot fragments. Bentley's leg was amputated, and he was placed in a foster home to recover.

Despite living through years of neglect, Bentley was still very friendly with humans. Once he was ready for the adoption process, he immediately clicked with a young woman named Cat.

"Bentley has done exceptionally well since I brought him home," says Cat. "I never thought I could love a dog as much as him! He has become my little shadow."

While Cat acknowledges that having a dog with special needs may not be for everyone, she believes it creates a unique bond. "Adopting a dog with special needs is truly a privilege if one has the ability to do so. From my experience, most dogs have an incredible ability to adapt and flourish with just the added bit of help from their humans!"



VBSPCA

Puttin' For Paws

Charity Golf Tournament

**Red Wing Lake Golf Course
Virginia Beach • October 6th, 2023**

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, 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. 25th | Registration Deadline - Oct. 4th

Ditty Bag & Raffle Sponsor Deadline - Sept. 11th

11 a m

Check-In & Lunch
Range Opens

12 p m

Shotgun Start

Followed by Dinner & Awards

Register online at vbspca.com/golf



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