

ALMOST HOME PET ADOPTION CENTER

Humane Society / SPCA of Nelson County

29 Stagebridge Road Lovingson, VA 22949 434-263-7722

GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO LIVE



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Please visit our website at www.nelsonspca.org



Fall/Winter 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As another busy year comes to a close, our Almost Home Pet Adoption Center, now in its 8th year, is usually filled to the max with rescued dogs and cats awaiting adoption or transfer. We're happy to report that due to adoptions and transports to no-kill facilities in Northern Virginia, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, we have the lowest number of dogs awaiting adoption at Almost Home Pet Adoption Center in a very long time. We still have an overabundance of lovely cats and kittens in need of adoption. Please look at our website (www.nelsonspca.org) to see all the adoptable animals hoping to go home for the Holidays.

Spaying and neutering is the key to controlling pet overpopulation, but the cost is a real challenge for many people. Thanks to Steve Schwartz and Molly Matthews-Ewald, we secured two major grants to address this need! This summer, the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies awarded us \$2,000 to help spay/neuter feral cats for people who care for cat colonies, and to fund pre-adoption spay/neuter of Almost Home Pet Adoption Center animals. And PetSmart Charities, Inc. has awarded us a grant totaling \$46,140 to be used over a two-year period to assist Nelson County residents who can't afford to spay/neuter their animals. With this grant, we committed to getting 406 owned dogs and cats spayed/neutered by June 2013 and another 406 by June 2014. We have high hopes that Nelson County's aggregate "live save rate" (presently about 87%) will continue to rise as a result. Animal Control is helping us to spread the word about this incredible opportunity. If you, or someone you know in Nelson, need financial assistance to get a pet spayed/neutered, there is no better time than now to call us at 434-263-7722.

The costs of dog and cat food, medicines, flea and tick treatments continue to rise. Our adoption fees cannot cover the cost of housing and feeding the animals, testing, vaccinations and spay/neuter. Our annual budget must fund this as well as utilities, maintenance, insurance, transport costs, salaries for our nine part-time employees, and special veterinary needs for many of our animals. With your support we are able to stay within our budget and provide for all the animals in our care.

Once again, some very generous supporters will match all contributions that Almost Home Pet Adoption Center receives before year-end. Please take advantage of this Holiday Matching program and see your donation doubled. Thank you so much for helping save the lives of so many homeless dogs and cats. All of our volunteers, staff, and furry friends are so grateful for your support. We wish you a Very Happy Holiday and a Healthy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

Bette Grahame

Bette Grahame, President

Squirtle, one of our abundance of kittens awaiting adoption



ASTRID BROCK – YAPPY HOWL-O-WEEN EVENT

Astrid Brock, HS/SPCA Board member and volunteer took 2nd place at the Yappy Howl-o-ween event held at Keswick Vineyard on Oct. 28th. Astrid, dressed as a milkmaid is pictured with two Almost Home Pet Adoption Hounds, Bessie and Demi, who were dressed as milk cows. They all had an "udderly" good time!



**To add Bessie or Demi to your herd, call us at 434-263-7722.
Milkmaid attire is not required for adoption.**

PET SUPPLIES PLUS

Pet Supplies Plus generously allows us to offer kitties in their store located at Seminole Trail in Charlottesville. Please stop in and visit our adoptable felines, and support PSP by shopping their great inventory of pet products. Thank you, PSP!!!



We want thank Melonie Morris, Melanie Lepper, and all the PSP volunteers for their hard work making this location possible. Through their steadfast dedication, dozens of felines have found new homes. To help at PSP, please call Melonie at (434) 989-1948 or email her at melliemel_22903@yahoo.com.

ALLISON

Allison and her five kittens came to Almost Home Pet Adoption Center from Nelson County Animal Control. Unfortunately, they all tested positive for feline leukemia. We are very grateful to Rich and Lee Ann at AWARE, a cat sanctuary for feline positive leukemia cats located in Bedford County. The HS/SPCA of Nelson County spayed Allison before she went to AWARE. Her kittens will soon be spayed and will go to AWARE also. Thanks to AWARE they will have a wonderful place to live out their lives.



PUTTING OUR GRANT MONEY TO WORK

Since being awarded two generous spay/neuter grants last summer, we have been pushing to fix as many cats and dogs each week as our clinics can handle.

Funds from the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies have allowed us to sterilize over 40 feral and young shelter cats. We completed this project in half the time required by the VFHS.

To achieve the goals defined by PetSmart Charities, we have stepped up the pace to sterilize 222 cats and 184 dogs by June 2013, a tall order to be sure. To date, we have spayed and neutered 91 cats and 53 dogs, about 30% of our goal.

Cat owners can opt to send their pets to Lovingson Veterinary Hospital or South Central Spay/Neuter Clinic for surgery; all dogs go to South Central. While both facilities offer low-cost spay/neuter, the cost can still be out-of-reach for some pet owners. These grants have made it possible for us to help people pay for spay or neuter and other basics like rabies vaccinations. Long term, these funds go a long way in helping Nelson County prevent pet over-population.

Call 434-263-7722 to get on the list.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The SPCA Thrift Shop is all decked out for the Holidays with plenty of selections for gift giving including new jewelry. It's also a great resource for holiday decorations, books, music, videos, and just about everything.

Look for SPCA Angel Pet Trees throughout the County. These are Christmas trees decorated with cut out ornaments that contain items from the Almost Home Pet Adoption Center wish list: pet food, toys, gas cards to facilitate pet transport, money, flea and tick treatments and other shelter supplies. Please take an ornament and deliver the item to Almost Home Pet Adoption Center or bring it back to the location of the tree and volunteers will collect it.



"PAWS WITH CLAUS" Nothing says Christmas quite like photos of your pets with Santa. **Have your pet(s) photographed with Santa at the SPCA Thrift Shop on Sat. Dec 1 or Sunday, Dec. 2 from 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.** Suggested donation for a 4 X 6 color photo in a Holiday card \$6. Additional photos in cards \$4, electronic photo files \$6. This tradition-steeped event is sponsored by the Humane Society/SPCA of Nelson County to benefit the Almost Home Pet Adoption Center. Don't miss it. There might be Treats!

ALMOST PURRRRFECT KITTENS!

Most people pass over kittens with a few minor imperfections. But these kitties are the most loving, beautiful pets you will ever find. They deserve a chance. **Won't you give them a forever home?**

Pirate, a male orange and white kitten, was brought to Almost Home with a really bad eye infection. Unfortunately his eye had to be removed. He is super cute, playful, and extremely affectionate. He loves being held.



Munchkin is a female white and tiger kitten that had an infection when she was very young that left her with a slight head tilt. She loves to follow us around and is very friendly with both humans and other cats. She loves to cuddle and purr, and is always sweet and gentle.

Gretchen, a female calico kitten, was trapped at a feral cat colony. Once in the trap we realized that she had an eye injury and needed to have her left eye removed. She was such a good patient and ended up not being feral at all! She is a very sweet kitten with a beautiful soft coat and fluffy tail.



THANK YOU!

We could not care for so many animals without the support of local veterinarians, who give discounts and extra effort to the Humane Society. We would like to thank the vets and staff at **Lovington Veterinary Hospital, Old Dominion Animal Hospital, Amherst Veterinary Hospital, Wintergreen Animal Clinic, South Central Spay-Neuter Clinic, Animal Hospital of Ivy Square, Crozet Veterinary Care Center, and Piedmont Veterinary Service,** for their dedicated service and support.

TEAMING UP TO SAVE LIVES

This feral dog gave birth under a parked truck. Animal Control Officer, Sandy Solar managed to get her and her 2 day old pups to the Nelson County Animal Control Facility. Dr. Holm at Lovington Veterinary Hospital diagnosed demodectic mange and prescribed medication for a bacterial infection. Kennel Attendant, Robert Morris began working with the terrified mother dog on a daily basis. Fonda Bell, a manager at Almost Home Pet Adoption Center and HS/SPCA Board Member named her Pansy, took pictures of her with her pups, and emailed these to a New Jersey contact, Leah Jacobson. A NJ rescue group, "Cold Nose, Warm Heart", agreed to take Pansy and her pups and care for them till the pups are weaned and the mother healthy. The day before being transported, Pansy and her pups went to the vet for health certificates, then to Almost Home Pet Adoption for the night. Bette Grahame arrived at Almost Home at 4:30 the next morning to load Pansy and her pups and transport them to the Amherst Humane Society where a cargo van would be loaded with dogs from several different shelters and driven to no-kill shelters in New Jersey. Even though it meant getting up in the wee hours of the morning, Sandy Solar volunteered to meet Bette at Almost Home to help load the mother and pups since Sandy felt Pansy had become comfortable with her while she was at the Animal Control Facility. Pansy behaved beautifully for Sandy, later as she was loaded into the Gateway Regional Rescue cargo van, and later unloaded and taken to a foster home in New Jersey. Pansy's mange is responding to treatment and the pups are growing nicely. This team effort saved the lives of Pansy and her pups.



Several weeks later, mother dog Darla and her pups, surrendered by their owner to Nelson County Animal Control, were to be transported to All 4 the Dogs, another New Jersey Rescue. Darla and her pups remained at the N. C. Animal Control Facility until transport, because at that time several Almost Home Pet Adoption Center dogs had kennel cough. Sandy Solar agreed to meet Fonda Bell at 5 A.M. at the Animal Control Facility the morning of the transport. Fonda drove them to Amherst Humane Society where they were loaded into the Gateway Regional Rescue Van and transported to New Jersey. Once again, team effort saved a sweet dog and her pups. The Humane Society/SPCA is very grateful to Sandy and all who played their part in saving these animals.

PROJECT CATFIX Spay-neuter on Wheels

Dr. Karen Holm, assisted by her husband, Dave, altered sixteen cats in their new mobile spay/neuter hospital, at a clinic held at our SPCA Thrift Shop on November 3rd. Financial assistance for pet owners was provided by the Humane Society/SPCA of Nelson County through a grant from the Petsmart Charities Foundation, Inc.

Known as Project CatFix, this mobile hospital program, was created by the Holms and several of their colleagues to provide low-cost spay-neuter for felines in Nelson and surrounding counties. Dave Holm said they will be working closely with shelters to hold clinics monthly. Clinics for Nelson County are tentatively scheduled for the second Friday of every month.



For more information about Project CatFix, check out their website at www.Petneuter.org.

BOB

After transferring Bob from Nelson Animal Control, we learned that he had a severe heart murmur, that made anesthesia for neutering very risky. At a recent Virginia Federation of Humane Societies conference in Williamsburg, we saw a demonstration of Zeutering, a new method of non-surgical neutering. We decided to seek out a veterinarian to Zeuter Bob. Because area veterinarians were not yet practicing this brand new technique, we transported Bob to the Norfolk Humane Society where their clinic veterinarian was ready to Zeuter. Bob spent the night there following the Zeutering, then returned to Almost Home Pet Adoption Center to wait adoption. He developed a complication that took a few weeks to heal so he was in foster care with Marge Oram for plenty of TLC. Meanwhile, our adoption counselors, Flower and Ed, found a great match. On Sept. 1, 2012 Bob was adopted and went to his new home in Richmond. Here's what Charlotte, his new "mom", has to say about him:

"Bob's doing great! I decided you must know me really well. He's the perfect dog for me! He'll go lay in front of the door ready to go when I get home from work. My vet was impressed with your rescue organization; he said that you all did a whole lot more for Bob than a lot of agencies would have. I'm sure he's right - I imagine some of them may not even tell you he has heart issues. I've always been leery as to what you may run into when adopting dogs, but I feel like you all were at least up front with Bob's info. And then again, I wonder if some of them would have just left him to be euthanized. Thank you so much for hanging in there with me so long while looking for a dog. You did great finding one I would fall in love with. He's the sweetest, most loving little dog; sometimes I think he really is a human in a little dog body." Thanks again for all your help!!!"



Volunteering is Fun for Everyone Especially the dogs and cats!

Since starting as volunteer coordinator this June, I have sent out a monthly email which summarizes upcoming events, current needs & recent adoptions. This email is available not just for current volunteers but also for anyone who loves animals and is interested in what is going on at Almost Home. Much of the information included in the emails is sent to me by other volunteers – **so please contact me if you have some information to include, or to get on the distribution list.** When visiting Almost Home, please take a look at the "Information Binder" on the counter; it includes extra copies of adoption flyers you can post and information to take home to read. We also offer volunteer training and group tours throughout the year.

Adoption events are not just a chance for the animals to get adopted. They are also a lot of fun for the animals, a chance to work on their manners and increase their comfort in new situations – all skills that will help them get adopted. The animals that attend adoption events seem to get an extra dose of good luck. For example, one month after 12 dogs and 2 kittens attended the Charlottesville Vegetarian Festival – all but 3 have been adopted. Please volunteer for adoption events – we have so many nice animals that would love to get out!

The best time for new volunteers to come out to Almost Home is on Sundays between 3-6pm (I am there every other Sunday). If Sundays don't fit your schedule please let me know and I will arrange a tour at another time.

*For more information please contact Astrid, at:
Astrid_Brock@yahoo.com*

SUCCESS, ONE DOG AT A TIME

Sporting their bright orange "SPCA Adopt A Dog" tee-shirts, the dynamic duo, Flower and Ed Van Kan have become well-known around Nelson and surrounding counties, frequenting the Nelson County Farmers Market, the Waynesboro PetSmart store, the Charlottesville Downtown Mall and a host of other locations. They have a mission which they have been passionately pursuing for the past four years, which has resulted in their directly (or indirectly) getting 92 Almost Home Pet Adoption Center dogs placed in their forever homes. They keep in touch with people who adopt locally and as far away as Northern Virginia, Richmond, Keswick, Sweet Briar, Buena Vista, and Schwenksville, PA to name a few.

Retiring early and moving from Arlington, VA to Stony Creek in Nelson County, Flower and Ed began volunteering to walk and groom dogs at Almost Home Pet Adoption Center four years ago. "The dogs spoke to us and touched our hearts," say Flower and Ed. Not having dogs of their own, the couple took some training hints from Sigrid Mirabella, one of our managers who is a trainer and animal behaviorist. Working one-on-one helps them to get to know the dog well and to be able to learn what kind of family that dog needs. Some dogs they take out for a day, even taking them swimming during hot weather. Others they foster in their home, some short-term, others for months at a time. What works well for them is for one of them to "show the dog" (and the tricks it knows) while the other chats with folks, asking them pertinent questions about the lifestyle the dog will have if adopted. They also create and distribute flyers and post them on bulletin boards around the region.

Matching dogs to people is what they like to do. Before adopting out a dog, they often arrange a play date at the potential adopter's home, giving them a chance to introduce the new dog to existing pets and see if the home seems a good fit. Even if people they talk to are not interested in the dog they have with them, Flower and Ed maintain lists of names, phone numbers and emails of people actively looking to adopt. They consult shelter staff to learn about the dogs and review the SPCA's website (www.nelsonspca.org) to search for dogs that seem like a good match for people on their list. Flower and Ed feel that people appreciate the effort being put into searching for the right dog for them.

Flower and Ed LOVE what they do and they are LOVED by all of us that LOVE Almost Home Pet Adoption Center. **We need more volunteers to try the "One at a Time" method to help dogs find their forever home.** It allows you to set your own pace, without being overwhelmed, and IT WORKS! **Please call 434-263-7722 to get started.**



Flower and Ed's dog adoption successes: Coco, Sunny, Elsie, Heidi, Trixie, Hooch, Dusty, Travis, Pokey, Hank, Waylon, Dudley, Hobo (Jack Russell Terrier), Barney, Homer, Sunshine, Jasper, Jeti, Hayes, Charlene, Gladys, Fred, Chloe, Penny, Chelsea, Harley, Spud, Alfie, Duce, Annabelle, Tanner, Princess, Adrienne, Trudi, Tippy, Bell, Jackie, Woodrow, Wally, Blossom, Foxy, Codie, Petey, Sadie, Maddie, Shiloh, Annie, Sadie II, Duke, Junior, Curly, Lucy, Rip, Buddy, Oscar (Rat Terrier), Oscar (Shih Tzu), Sissy, Mary, Robin, Max, Blaze, Sport, Addie, Vixen, Bella Luna, Theodore, Bear, Ben, Joey, Hope, Laura, Jake, Caesar, Delta, Dawn, Durwood, Sally, Tommy, Lincoln, Pharoah, Thea, Emily, Bones, Mocha, Bob, Andy, Eugenia, Hugs, Rueben, and Hobo (Husky).

Flower and Ed with their latest ward, Bella

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF PEOPLE

(Received November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012)

Craig Ackerman, by Michelle N. & George C. McKinney;
and, Judy & Henry Meincke
Nevada Armstrong, by David Chamowitz
Carolyn Bixby, by Lynn & Jerry Adey
Tony Blankley, by Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore;
Judy A. & Charles R. Black; Eleanor Clift;
Mary Grace Corey; Sandra L. Crippen;
Kenneth M. Duberstein; Helen & Steven Lapkovsky;
Lauren McDonald; Ana Blankley; & Amanda McDonald
Rhone Resch/Solar Energy Industries Association;
Thomas W. Schaaf, Jr.; Sheila R. & Alma F. Ward;
and, Vincent De Santis, Jr. & Bo Wirth, Ph.D.
Robert Bois, by Judy & Henry Meincke
D'Arcy Brent, by Audrey Brent
Harriet Payne Carter, by Geraldine D. McCray
Tripp Cochran, by Jane & Ted Hughes
Ann Cunningham, by Bettie Blue Omohundro
E. Coleman Currie, by Anne C. Currie; and,
Sarah B. & Halvar Y. Loken
June Curry, by Adventure Cycling Association;
Margueritte P. & William S. Miller; Judith C. Mundy;
F. Page Nelson; Janice Seeger; and,
Wendy & Larry Teeter
John Derieux, by Letitia Derieux
Dooley & Lorenz, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Sandra Ehmon, by Theresa Ann Singleton
John C. Everhart, by Mary Amanda Dew;
James Everhart; and, Joanna Zawadzki
Bob Fanelli, by Thomas & Kathryn W. Kelsey
Fuzzy & Jean Fitzgerald, by Barbara J. Gormes
Sophie Greenhalgh, by the Della A. Yannuzzi Trust
Rebecca Harris, by the Dewey Living Trust;
Bernard D. & Barbara S. Pasternak; and,
Betty A. & Jerry P. Wrenn
Henley Family, by the Yvonne R. Leveque Trust
Lucretia Hoogland, by Jamie & Thomas Dineen;
Karol E. & William M. Grimes; Helen J. Quinn &
John C. Pernick; and, an unidentified Friend

Deneva Levy, by Ann C. Riley
Steuart Ligon, DVM, by Anne & Scott Morrill
Dr. William MacIlwaine, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Molly & Moxi Marker, by Sylvia B. & James R. Stafford
William R. Maki, by Carolyn J. Maki;
Elizabeth M. Panilaitis; and, Rita Mae Brown
Wallace Masencup, by Charles Amante; Lois C. Ault;
Malinda W. & Joseph T. Bowles; Tracey M. Dixon;
Cynthia L. Foulke; George L. Hanson;
Robbie M. Howell; Lisa Lang; Elvira Whitehead Morse
and, Christy White
Laurie Monroe, by Darlene R. Miller, Ph.D.; and,
Maria M. & Stan K. Whitehead
Raymond M. Moton, by Ida May & Willis Glidden;
and, Connie Jo Saulter & Carey Burch
Mary Mudge, by Amy P. Butler & Laura K. Beech;
Nadine Grace Chase; Lori & Steven Dunn;
Rev. Ellen Longmoore; Laquita M. Pinchback;
Mary K. Reese; and, Cheyenne E. Russo
Sharon Ramsay, by David M. & Rita J. McKenzie
Ivan Riley, by Ann C. Riley
Jerry Singleton, by Theresa Ann Singleton
Faye Smythers, by Lisa & Jerry Bryant
Richard Staron, by Virginia Staron; and,
James Wein & Muriel Martin-Wein
Anita Stein, by Debra M. Stein; and, Lewis Stein
Lela Stevens, by Judy S. & Mike R. Smythers; and
James E. Stevens
Ashley & Billy Streiter, by Deborah A. & William T. Streiter
Sandy Szelagiewicz, by Leonard M. & Christine D. Hetz;
Martha P. & David D. Makel; and Many Friends
Briana Tyree, by Pettis Ann Bowling
Watterman, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Teresa H. West, by Virginia P. Holmes;
Darlene R. Miller, Ph.D.; The Monroe Institute; and,
Maria M. & Stan K. Whitehead
Hollywood Williams, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams

Please see our website for lists of Honoraria and Pet Memorials

The Humane Society/SPCA of Nelson County, has been approved by the IRS as a Section 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Organization. Donations to the HS are tax deductible depending on your personal tax situation.



**HELP US! WE ARE BEING HELD CAPTIVE!
PLEASE COME TO ALMOST HOME OR PET
SUPPLIES PLUS IMMEDIATELY AND
ADOPT SOMEONE, EVEN A DOG! ALL WE
HAVE TO OFFER IN RETURN IS BEAUTY,
FUN, AND LOVE.**



**POSSUM PANTS
(AT PET SUPPLIES PLUS)**



HOLIDAY GIFT MATCHING FUNDS CAMPAIGN THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST

FINANCIAL HELP FROM OUR SUPPORTERS
ENABLES US TO HELP THESE ANIMALS
AND IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

Please take us home for the Holidays!



SHILOH

WESLEY

TAYLOR

LOVEY DOVEY
(Declawed)

HOBO

WHISKERS

PARIS



Humane Society / SPCA of Nelson County
29 Stagebridge Road
Lovingson, VA 22949
Almost Home Pet Adoption Center

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