

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 us at www.nelsonspca.org or at www.facebook.com/nelsonspca



Spring 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the biggest challenges the HS/SPCA is dealing with is Nelson County's feral cats: free roaming, unsocialized, and multiplying rapidly. Many kind-hearted people feed stray cats, but the number of cats in their colony keeps growing (cats can breed 3 times a year!) if they are not spayed/neutered. In the past, Animal Control accepted stray and feral cats, but if they were not friendly, they were euthanized. However, since Virginia State law does not require animal control facilities to take in cats, the county no longer takes stray cats, only ones surrendered who are friendly and healthy. While Almost Home can transfer these cats in, we cannot take in feral or unsocialized strays, either, due to limited space and the challenge to find homes for several hundred friendly cats each year. Home-finding would be impossible for us were it not for our partnership with the Northeast Animal Shelter, a no-kill facility in Salem, Mass.

When we learn of feral cat colonies, we offer assistance to trap the cats, get them to a veterinarian for spay/neuter and vaccinating, and return them to caretakers who feed them. This is our Trap/Neuter/Return or TNR Program. Recently, a man who moved to a nursing home left behind over 30 cats. We were able to take the friendly house cats, but ten were ferals. After trapping and getting them vetted, HS/SPCA volunteers took them to Delfosse Vineyard, which provided funds for a shed on their property for the cats. (See Page 4 for a story about the shed.) Another colony of 13 cats was left behind when the man who had been feeding them passed on. Our very dedicated, experienced TNR volunteer, Krista Waibel, managed to trap, vet, and return all of these to the man's house where an HS/SPCA volunteer and the man's family are feeding them until a permanent place can be found.



Young ferals we are working to socialize.

A Shipman auto mechanic and his wife, who were feeding feral cats at their garage, several of which had been spayed/neutered through our program, had to sell their business due to the husband's serious health issues. The new owner did not want the cats on the premises, so we trapped them, got the unaltered ones fixed, and were able to find them homes as barn cats on farms in Nelson and Albemarle. In addition to funding for the TNR program, *we are asking your help to make us aware of people feeding outdoor cats that are not spayed/neutered.* We are in need of more people to help trap cats. We can easily teach anyone how to set a trap if they are interested in learning how. If you can find people willing to take a feral cat or two to keep mice and snakes out of their barn, please ask them to call us. This animal welfare issue will not solve itself, but with your help we will work toward a kinder future for feral cats.

Gratefully,

THE HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA
OF NELSON COUNTY

Bette Grahame

Bette Grahame, President

Shopping at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)? Use [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate .5% to the Humane Society-SPCA of Nelson County. We are also now participating in Kroger's Community Rewards program. Go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards or visit our website at www.nelsonspca.org for instructions.

Distillery Lets Our Dogs Pucker Up

In early March, Silverback Distillery, on 151 in Nelson County, invited us to bring dogs to their tasting room for a Kissing Booth fundraiser. Distillery staff built an elevated platform and placed it inside to keep everyone warm. Almost Home dogs Boomer and Abigail spent two hours greeting guests and giving kisses, snuggles, and participating in photo ops. The Nelson County *Times* staff was present and featured the event and the dogs in the next issue of the paper. At one point, the distillery manager did a Facebook Live video asking about the two dogs and posted it to their Facebook feed.

In two hours, \$127 was raised for the shelter. A previous event with the owner's own dogs raised \$138 in additional donations. Best of all, both Boomer and Abigail were adopted: Boomer by an employee of Silverback, and Abigail within a few weeks of her appearance at the distillery.

Almost Home greatly appreciates Silverback Distillery's support of our shelter and think they are a fantastic group of dog lovers!



The kissing booth at Silverback Distillery.

LOVING CUP® Vineyard & Winery



Dudley Nose® Rosé
VIRGINIA
MADE WITH ORGANIC GRAPES

The 2016 Loving Cup Vineyard Dudley Nose Rosé label dog has been unveiled: She is Roly-Poly, an AHPAC alum adopted by Bonnie Stevens (author of *The Adventures of Dreamer Cat*, page 3). If you'd like your dudley (pink) nosed, rescue dog considered for the 2017 label, send a picture and background to: deena@lovingcup.com. Loving Cup has donated \$2 to AHPAC for every bottle of rosé sold since they opened in 2014.

Visit our website at <http://www.nelsonspca.org/> which features a special Cat and Dog of the Month available for adoption, and information about donating, adopting animals, upcoming events, fostering animals, news and articles, spaying and neutering, sponsoring animals, volunteering, a lost and found page (new; see details below), available animals, our thrift shop, and local merchants and services. In addition, we added a link to the bottom of our Home Page to PawDiet.com dog and cat pet food recalls.

LOST AND FOUND

As a community service, Nelson County Humane Society/SPCA has added a Lost and Found page to its website for the purpose of posting photos and information regarding lost and found animals in Nelson County and adjacent areas. To post an animal, please email our webmaster at sybil.martino@gmail.com and provide her with the following information:

1. Animal description (breed, color, sex and size),
2. Location animal was last seen/found,
3. Your contact information (email and/or phone), and
4. Photo (if possible)

NOTE: This does not replace the need for people to contact Nelson County Animal Control at (434) 263-7047 and Almost Home at (434) 263-7722 to report lost and found animals and to continue with follow-up calls. You also can call Charlottesville SPCA at (434) 973-5959 and Lynchburg Humane Society at (434) 448-0088.

One of Our Animals Inspires a Kids' Book

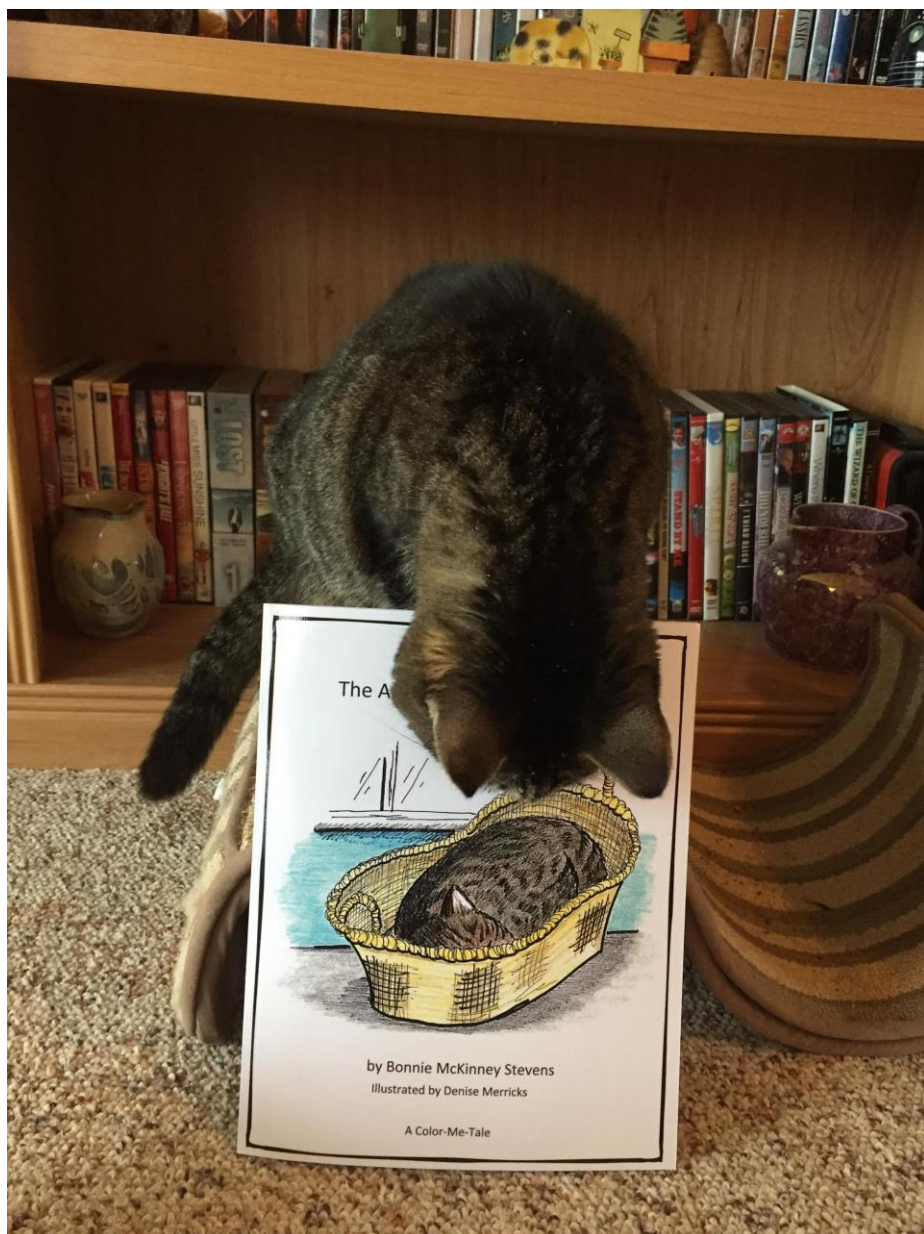
'The Adventures of Dreamer Cat'

Bonnie Stevens began volunteering at Almost Home in March 2011, accepting the task of cleaning cat cages every Thursday with a great group of volunteers. One day, she noticed a little tabby cat named Dreama curled up in a wicker basket, her front paw covering her face as if to block out the world. She was no doubt remembering her rough start in life and eventual seizure in a neglect case by Animal Control. She was pregnant, had a broken tail, and a poorly-healed break in her hind leg. Bonnie describes falling in love with Dreama:

Every week, I looked for the little cat and spent a few minutes stroking her and speaking softly to her. Gradually, Dreama began to spend time outside her wicker basket. She would climb awkwardly with her gimpy hind leg to the top of the tall scratching post.

I fell more and more in love with this shy little cat, whom I now called Dreamer, but she was not quite ready to let me into her secret world. I waited while she decided if she wanted to trust people again until October 2011, when I walked in the front door and Dreamer ran across the room and sat on my feet. That day she came home with me.

Dreamer fit into our home right away. When I called the dogs to go for a walk, Dreamer raced out the door, too. She followed us into the woods and meowed for me to wait if I got too far ahead. The little cat would get a playful look on her



Dreamer herself checks out the book she inspired. She's very impressed.

HOW TO BUY THE BOOK

The Adventures of Dreamer Cat can be bought on Amazon. It is an endearing story of how a shy shelter cat dreams her way to adoption and love. \$12; all profits to Almost Home.

face, wiggle her hind end, and race toward a large tree. For all her effort, she would only make it about two feet up the trunk, but she would turn around and look at me with pride as if she had climbed the tallest tree ever.

Sometimes, Dreamer would sit on a rock in the middle of the creek behind the house. She always had a faraway look in her eyes as if imag-

ining she was doing something heroic. One night, I sat down at the computer and started writing about our amazing little cat and the adventures she dreamed up. Gradually, these musings became the basis for the children's book I wrote: The Adventures of Dreamer Cat.

Bonnie says the story would never have become a book had it not been for the artistic ability of Denise Merricks. Long-time volunteer and rescue advocate, Denise's drawings brought the story to life. Her black and white illustrations can be colored in as the story is being read.

Thank you, Bonnie and Denise, for your very special endeavor!

For Feral Cats, a Shed to Call Home

When an elderly county resident had to leave his home, more than thirty cats were left behind. This was a challenging situation for our shelter, but the socialized cats were quickly adopted, fostered or transported. Ten were eventually deemed feral, their future uncertain. Fortunately, Sigrid Mirabella, AHPAC employee, had posted an urgent request for barn homes on the website, and the owner of Delfosse Vineyard contacted Krista Waibel, volunteer coordinator of our Trap/Neuter/Release program. Delfosse donated the cost of a shed, and volunteers Peyton Coyner, Rob Martin, Pete Campbell, Ron Treadway and Wilbur Gallant spent two days building it. The cats were moved in and held for two weeks so they could acclimate to their new surroundings. The cats are doing well, still using the shed for shelter, but enjoying their beautiful outside space. Almost Home is so grateful for Delfosse's generosity, Krista's relentless efforts, and the wonderful construction volunteers who made this possible.

Fundraiser: Delfosse's will hold a fundraiser from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, for AHPAC where the Jon Spears Band will perform. Check out the AHPAC website for more details.

Thanks to Wegmans

We would like to thank Wegmans for its \$1,000 donation to our feral cat program.



Volunteers got together to put up the shed for feral cats, one made possible by the generosity of Delfosse Vineyard.

Meet Charli, Saved by the Help to Heal Fund

Charli, spelled by the staff at Almost Home with a heart over the "i," is definitely a favorite at the shelter. He is a handsome, tabby and white, neutered male, about 3 years old who has free run of the lobby so he can greet all visitors. You would never know that Charli spent two months at the veterinary hospital due to chronic urinary tract blockages. After exhausting every other option, the vet finally performed an operation called a urethrostomy to assure that Charli would never have to deal with a blockage again. Charli



does eat special urinary food to keep from producing crystals, but, otherwise, now he is a healthy, happy cat who can look forward to a normal

pain-free life. He is just one of the animals at Almost Home for whom the shelter goes the extra mile to provide needed care through our Help to Heal Fund. Charli will make someone a very special pet: He is a cuddly, loving cat and gets along well with other cats. He is gentle with children and enjoys being in the middle of the action. Come visit Almost Home and take a few minutes to pet Charli. You will leave calmer and happier for having spent time with him (and, maybe, as a new cat owner, too.)

2016 Memorials and Honoraria

Below is a list of memorials and honoraria for 2016. We apologize if any names have been inadvertently left off or misspelled.

Memorials for Pets

All our Babies, by Jerry & Ginny Taylor
All Creatures Great & Small, by Joan E. & Arthur Spalding
All the Angels of Mrs. Pilly & Mr. Patrick, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Amy, by Cynthia J. & Michael H. Trausch
Angel, by Mark F. & Terri L. Courtney
The "Redheads" of the Fanelli's, by Thomas & Kathryn W. Kelsey
Freddie, my loyal girl and soulmate, by Janet H Gennaro
Monty, by Anonymous
My 13 Wirefox Terriers, by M. Carol & William L. Smith
Ranger (Bruce), by Mary & David Cunningham
Remus, of Mr & Mrs Jerry Chambers, by Linda & Louis Calderone
Ripper, Yorkie of the Jones Family, by Linda & Louis Calderone
Sky, of Donna & Chris Love, by David S. & Jane C. Francis
Spikey, of Ms. Anne Grealis, by Elizabeth P. Sweeney
Sami & Max, beloved pugs of Anita Stein, by Debra M. Stein
Atlas, boxer of the Buynak Family, by Deborah A. Mazzone
Augustus, by: Anna M. Moore & Jack Janetatos; and, Lydia M. & Brian J. Schoeck
Beaner, Delhi, Susie, Trip & Snooks, by Peyton & Carol Coyner
Bear & Maggie, by Diana D. & Larry Tyler
Bee, dog of Lisa Stewart & Mark Maynard, by Jenny Mead
Beloved dog Fozzie, by Doug & Marlene Almstead
Blackie & Shadow, by Priscilla A. Mawyer
Bob D. Cat, of Ashley & Bran Tamburello, by Barbara C. & Michael W. Brownley
Brittany Klemic, by Jim & Joan Klemic
Butchie & Mac, by Ann F. & George W. Krieger (2x)
Calvin, by Mary & Charles Leschinski
Celie, Honey Bee, Angel & Molly, by anonymous
Charlie Brown, by Michael D. Ellison
Chase, of Donna Via, by Kathie Hullfish
Cherub, by Harriet F. Schultz
Chessie, by James K. & Sayoko MacDougall
Chumley, beloved dog of Maura Singleton & Van Preddy, by: Theresa Ann Singleton; and, Cornelia C. Serota
Coco Shifflett, of Brian & Carol Shifflett, by Anna & Walter L. Sailer
Coconut, by Susan Greene & Larry Stopper
Dixie & Dora, kittens from AH, by Lewis & Linda Townsend
Dixie Weeder, of the Weeder Family, by Linda & Louis Calderone
Dolly, by Mary C. (Cathy) Stevens Parrish
Ellie, by Parke Capshaw
Flick, by Marcia G. Gibbons
Fozzie Bear, of Hazel Walker, by Doug & Marlene Almstead
Freddy, by John M. Shifflett
Ginger, by Patricia A. & Ronald T. Turnbull
Gordy, of Loreta Hirschfield, by Connie Crafton Motley
Sassie, by Melanie S. Lepper
Spike, of Bill Brennan & Marsha Robertson, by Melanie S. Lepper
Hercules, dog of Sandra Owen, by Margreta H. Swanson
J.D., by Della A. Yannuzzi
Janey (fka Sandy), by Mark B. Robinette & Cynthia G. Wilson
Jewel, of Linda & Howard Strickland, by Christine L. Shane
Juniper, by Nancy K. & Emil Kritzer
Kody, by Martina Compton & Conrad A. Graham
Kokapelli, by Laura C. Giannini
Kye, the bull mastiff, by Eunice Paulett
Lars (cat from AH), by Lawrence & Linda Harlow
Libbie, of Nancy Townsend, by Thomas & Kathryn W. Kelsey
Little Nell, by Daniel V. & Alice K. Wiggins
Little Orphan Annie & Her Kittens, by Nancy S. & William J. Loth III
Huggles, by Nancy S. & William J. Loth III
Lucky Shelton, by Ruby B. Shelton (2x)
Lulu, dog of Maura Singleton & Van Preddy, by: Theresa Ann Singleton, and, Cornelia C. Serota
Lydia, of the Francis Family, by David S. & Jane C. Francis
Mickey, Ginger, Chrissie, Justice, Hollee, Plintey & Nelly,

by Leona F. & Charles L. Brown
Miss Trixie, by Cheryl A. Ehrenfried & Michael D. Capps
Molly, beautiful calico, by Priscilla A. Mawyer
Molly, Sparky, and Thomas, by Rita & George Nicklas
Moniepe, our 20 y.o. domestic shorthair, by William & Enoka Perrelli III
Neddie, Blair, and Afton, by anonymous.
Ginger, Miky, Hollee, Plinky, and Cuddles, by Leona F. & Charles L. Brown
Our beloved Little Guy and Ramsey, by John & Catherine Kemper
Panther, by Rebecca G. Ledingham
Panther, of Tanbra Miller, by Martha Hayman
Patch, furry son of Margaret Haney, by Susan B. & Robert P. Hodous
Apache beloved cat of Gigi Struzz, by: Heidi Leavitt, Mary C. Mahoney; Mary Bocchino-Cross; and, Virginia A. Kent.
Pepper, by Deborah J. & John J. Markham
Peter, by Martin Cary Burton
Princess, of Charles & Helen Gowen, by Kathleen G. Fortune
Princess Kitty Cat, by Susan Elise & R. Alan Morton, Jr
Rocky, by Beverly B. Schell
Rosie Brower/Fink, by Lincoln P. Brower & Linda Fink
Rusty & Jenny Pritchett, by Montie & June Pritchett
Ruthie, by Alice Nadine Thorne
Sadie, beloved dog of Tom & Wendy Sailer, by Anna & Walter L. Sailer
Sam, from AH, by Beverly W. Martin
Sam, of Frank & Donna McCurdy, by David S. & Jane C. Francis
Sampson, of Thomas Kelsey, Jr, by Thomas & Kathryn W. Kelsey
Sandy, by Dale S. E. & Edwin W. Reynolds
Sandy, our Golden Retriever, by Elizabeth S. & David W. Pritchard
Sassy, Sixer, Shadow, Dodge & Sophie, by Timothy M. Jones (2x)
Schwanz & Riesling, by Houston S. & Laura M. Sorenson
Shane the Wonder Dog, by Hadley Zeavin
Snuggles, by John L. & Donna E. Mitcha
Sophie, by Randall & Carol Phillips
Sophie & Katie, cats of Carol & Randall Phillips, by: Robert D. Phillips (2x); and, Judith P. Rogers
Gracie & Eliza, by Robert D. Phillips
Sport, by Joyce P. Rodgers
Sydney the Curmudgeon, by Mary T. Creed-Pallone
The Sailer's Angels: Bitsy; Tootsy; Jake; Amos; Daisy; Bella; Molly, and Prince, by Anna & Walter L. Sailer
14 y.o. cat of the Kiehl's, by Cathy L. Kiehl
Tiger, cat of Dennis Baune, by Alice E. Dulaney
Tippy, pet of Sue Pfaltz, by Kay Pfaltz
Toby, beloved kitty, by Cheryl Ehrenfried & Michael Capps
Toby, by Tedi Wright
Tucker & Winkie, of Cathy & Patrick Parrish, by Adrienne W. & David Phillips
Tucker, favorite horse of their cousin Patricia, by Thomas & Kathryn W. Kelsey
Ulla & Zoe, by Ingrid & Philip Robinson (2x)
Ursa, by Maryann Dupes
Wally, of Lee & Katie Francis, by David S. & Jane C. Francis
Winnie by Donald W. Glasser
Zoe, pet of Marion George, by Cornelia C. Serota
Zydeco, a most unique creature, by Phillipa & Tom Proulx

Memorials for People

Henry T. Ashley, by Gloria T. Ashley
Barbara O. Barton, by: Susan H. Montgomery; Marcia G. Gibbons; Caroline Byrd Emswiler; Phillipa & Tom Proulx; Claudia Van Koba & Gary W. Jeketic; Donna St. Clair; Heywood & Judith Greenberg; Anna Leigh Greene; the Thursday Morning Bridge Club; Anne K. & Vijay Kapoor; Lawrence R. Cooper; Paul & Maria Henderson Charitable Trust; Ann E. Mills; Jane W. & James W. Raup; Terri & George Olcott; Leslie W. & George C. Rhodes III; Nancy Bockstaal & Ivar Strand; Bette J. Grahame; Trew & Tony Bennett; Catherine L. Dixon & Daniel R. Webster; and, Catherine W. & Richard A. Greene
Deborah Brent, by: Neal R. Grandy; and, Sharon M. Bloom
Gilmore Bridgwater, by Dawn Ferguson
Julia R. Broom, by O. Whitfield Broom, Jr.
Chris, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Tripp Cochran, by Jane & Ted Hughes
Donald Courtney, by Mark F. & Terri L. Courteney
Ann Cunningham, by Bettie Blue Omohundro
Erin Diamond, by Carol Janus & Alan Diamond
John C. Everhart, by: James Everhart; and, Anonymous

Jerry Fessler, by Linda King
Ralph Frink, by: Judy & Henry Meincke; and, Pat Frink
Art Grahame, by: Ralph E. Turpin, Jr, Atty at Law; Debra M. Stein; Edward D. Russell, Jr; Susan F. Johnson; Terri & George Olcott; Richard P. & Sarah E. Schneider; Lewis Stein; Stanley & Janet Gravalis; and, George Litton.
Tommy Guess, by Barbara C. & Michael W. Brownley
Mac Halsey, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Others TBD, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Mary Harlow, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Anne F. Henderson, by: Martha D. Conde; Helen S. Massie; Marie D. & Robert R. Lyons, Jr; Mary W. Zimmerman; Louise M. Wood; Jacqueline W. Asbury; George A. Fortune; Elizabeth G. Hoskins; Valeria B. & Frank H. Breault, Jr; Gloria S. & Roland C. Wood, Jr; Bette J. Grahame; Greg Hensley; Jane W. & James W. Raup; and, Patricia F. Price
Becky Hibbard, by: Barbara L. Spencer & Gary Beane; Deborah W. Howe & Paul M. Clarke; Serelda Elliot; Beverly B. Schell; Janet & Doug Wellman; Ronald A. & Roxanne M. Broadbent; Rover's Recess Inc.; Virginia & Edward Fries; Sara D. & Wayland K. Harris; Louise A. & Glenn R. Clayton, Jr; Susan H. Montgomery; LTC (Ret) & Mrs. Jon C. McIntire; Dorothy A. Bohannon; Hungry Hill Farm; Jane Dudek deButts; Gloria & Ed Van Kan; Susan B. Viemeister; Laura B. Scherman; Bette J. Grahame; Ellen M. Gatling; Susan Lazerson; Leigh Louria; Deborah J. Hibbard; Jean E. Hibbard; Elliott & Carol Dworin; and, Marilyn S. & Timothy J. Riley.
Robert & Jenny Johnson, by Pauline S. & Don Kendall
Virginia Harris Johnson, by Pauline S. & Don Kendall
Gene & Everett Jones, by Barbara C. & Michael W. Brownley
Laura Rebecca Killingsworth, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Carolyn LaFon, by: Phyllis & Robert D'Angio, Jr; Robert N. Nelson & Lori Nelson Boles; Mary & Randolph Walker; Joseph Abbate & Colleen Carew; Michael W. & Pamela Kostelnik; James A. Doull; and, Donald & Barbara Rudd.
Stuart Ligon, DVM, by Anne & Scott Morrill
Sarah Linde, by Pamela M. Rorick
Gary Lineberry, by Susan Lineberry
John Lis, by Arlene & Anthony J. Provenzano
Cleva Maggio, by: Ann S. & Fred H. Clarkson; S. Dean & William Smith; Thomas K. & Pamela Anne Parks; Mike Maggio; Rhoderick W. & Mary H. Gunter; Terri & George Olcott; Bette J. Grahame; Debora A. Mazzone; Lara Velardi; Lenke J. & Rolf N. Mann; Dawn G. & Scott M. McDonald; Jane B. & James A. Roberts; Beverly B. Butler; Reba S. Camp; Sharon Lee; and, Gloria C. Maggio.
Laurie Monroe, by Maria M. & Stan K. Whitehead
Mickey Nelson, by Karen L. Czar & Sharon A. Hicks
William (Bill) D. Oglesby, by: Mark B. Robinette; the Tom Disharoon Family; Kathleen F. Harper; Ann Marie & John R. Roper; Linda K. Smith; Ellen O. & Brian L. O'Hara; and, Blaine M. Willett.
Mrs. George C. Palmer III, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Harriet Carter Payne, by Geraldine D. McCray
Alice Pretchel's Father, by Ellen & Rob Wilson
C.M. Price, Jr, by Patricia F. Price
John David Ralston, by: Sarah A. Ralston & Myra R. Botkin; Mariclaire Hale; Kathy R. & William W. Baum; and, Carolyn E. Ringgold
Daniel Rasnake, by Annette Woody
Otto Ritter, by Paula S. & Richard T. Lawless
Ernie Rodgers, by Charles E. & Joyce P. Rodgers
Cindy Russell, by: Emmagene & Stanley Olah; and, Eric C. & Marsha Baron
Paul H. Shelton, by Pauline S. & Don Kendall
Robert Short, by Marilyn & Henry P. Williams
Nancy Singleton, by Theresa Ann Singleton
Rebecca Lynn Small, by: Kenneth P. & Natalie C. McBride; David W. & Theresa L. Martin; and, Shady's Place
Dana Snyder, by Sharon M. Bloom
Richard Staron, by Virginia Staron
Anita Stein, by Debra M. Stein; and, Lewis Stein
Grover Stearns, by Marilyn S. & Timothy J. Riley
Ivan & Lola Stevens, by: James E. Stevens; and, Judy S. & Mike R. Smythers
James E. Stevens, by: the Oak Ridge Family; Marie S. Holland; Association of Electric Cooperatives; Judy B. & Keith B. Ponton, Sr; Marilyn H. & Edward L. Embrey; Cynthia & James Brewer; Cecile O. & Grady L. Parker; the Shrader Law Office; Kimberly Jennings; Central Virginia Electric Coop; and, Judy S. & Mike R. Smythers.

Continued on back

2016 Memorials and Honoraria

Continued from front

Paul Struzz, by: Heidi Leavitt; Mary C. Mahoney; Mary Bocchino-Cross; and Virginia A. Kent
Gary Van Fossen, by Barbara (Van Fossen) Akers
Bradley Van Lear, by: Marie Hallbert; Sarah Marshall; the Mitford Children's Home; Patricia C. & John M. Hamlet
Elizabeth A. Brown; Judy S. & Mike R. Smythers;
David S. & Jane C. Francis; Patricia & Edward D. Veas
Catherine Welsh; and, Barbara Kane
George Visich, by Rosemarie Lanard
Linda Wade, by Jefferson Obstetrics & Gynecology, Ltd
Helga Zetocha, by Rhonda M. & John U. Glass, Jr

Honoraria for People

All Animal Rescuers and Volunteers, by Chris DePierro
The Allen Family (Eloise, George, Brenda, Holly & Eli)
by Charlene G. Demyan
Reba & Bob Bachrach, on their 50th Wedding
Anniversary, by Judith A. & Jerome H. Rendich
Emily Marie Bell, by Mason N. & Fonda B. Graybill &
Bethel United Methodist Church
Cynthia Smith Brewer, by Thomas & Marie Celeste
Armstrong
Jim & Cindy Brewer, by Judy S. & Mike R. Smythers
Kim & Doug Bryant, by Emily Schofield
Andy Burdetsky, by James W. & Elaine D. Davis &
Hunter B. Price
Jim & Gina Colburn, by Barbara Herzing
Peyton Coyner, by: Bonnie Cady; Carol & Robert Keane;
Angela Brown; and, Heywood & Judith Greenberg
The Culberts, by Erin Johnson
Grace Culver, by William O'Barr
D's Birthday, by Ashley Reed
Bob Davis, by Martha Tyler
Clark Dugger, by Sheila G. McCormick
Bonnie Falbo & Dan Ehrman, by Caroline E. & John B.
Griffin
Patty & Mike Fanelli, by Thomas & Kathryn W. Kelsey
Father of Lisa & Joe Milbank, by Marilyn & Henry P.
Williams
Barbara Fiske, by Bonnie Cady; and, Heather Nelson
Patricia & Ralph Fink, on their 56th Wedding
Anniversary, by the Finks
Allie Fitzgerald, by Zachary & Logan Campbell; P. & S.
Fitzgerald; Sarah Fitzgerald; Steven & Lois Aldefer;
Melissa M. & Charles E. Thompson; Robert
Strickler Jr; & Tanner Fitzgerald.
Diana Garland, by L. George & Marie W. Hoover
Bette Grahame, by the Vitt Law Offices; Lewis Stein;
Timothy J. & Catherine Snider; and,
Susan Elise & R. Alan Morton, Jr.
The Happy Hoofers Riding Group, by
Bonnie & Bob Stevens
Jim Hollingsworth, by Peggy Augustus
Carol Janus, by Betty A. & Jerry P. Wrenn
Toby Johnson, by Emily Nelson
Page Kampmeier, by Bill Kampmeier (2x)
Sarah Kirchner & Erick Davis, for their Wedding, by
Lisa Davis-Lee, Esq; David D. & Kenna L. Rockey;
Rowland Davis; and Lynda L. & J. Furman Bisher
Anne L. Knauss, by David J. & Elizabeth Fineman
Catherine Kyle, by James R. Benkahl
Sarah Landon, by Suzanne Brock
Steve & Lish Lorenz, by Anthony & Elizabeth Anne
Slotwinski
Marcia Lovinge, by Betty A. & Jerry P. Wrenn
Ron Martin, by James W. Elaine D. Davis
Bob Martino, by Carlyle C. & Margaret T. Goodson
Sybil Martino and her work for the HS, by
Jacqueline G. & Luis F. Castro
Janie S. Mawyer, by Edith M. & Kent Burns
Rita & David McKenzie, for their 50th Wedding
Anniversary, by Ann & Ray Ashton; Carolyn L.
Barrette; Margaret C. & R. Bruce Baumgartner;
Ralph & Pat Frink; Henry M. & Barbara R. Gibb;
Donna & Neil Gleberman; Jeanne L. & Joseph M.
Horrigan; Candace K. & Thomas M. Krop; Judy &
Henry Meincke; David C. & Barbara L. Norton;
Barbara B. & Thomas B. Powell; Marguerite &
Alexander Robertson; Joseph A. & Ilse H. Steele;
C.S. & Elaine Thomas; and, Betty A. & Jerry P.
Wrenn
Maryline Meyer-Pollock, by Carol C. Pollock
Alyce Mickel; Cheryl Mickel; and, Maxine Mickel & Marion
Poynter, by Dawn Mickel & John Gardini
Ruth Powell & Sonny Mincarelli, by daughters Debbie,



Thank you to all the generous donors for their memorial contributions to the Humane Society/SPCA of Nelson County.
Please come visit the Almost Home adoption center at the corner of US-29 and State Route 624.

Diane, Delores, Denise & their spouses/partners.
Frankie Morris, for his Birthday, by Elizabeth M. Edmondson
Raven Nunnery, by Jill H. & Craig A. Reed
Mr & Mrs George Olcott III, by Marian L. Varvorst
Marge & Stu Oram, by Christine L. O'Shea
Cora Pennell, by John Hubbard & Joann H. Luczak
Carol & Randall Phillips, by Judith P. Rogers
Ken & Pat Pleasants on their 50th Wedding
Anniversary, by Patricia H. & Charles V. Durrer, Jr.
John Post on his 90th Birthday, by Nancy R. Bowman
Gretchen Price, by Sandy Gallagher
Shepherd, by Amy L. Childs
Mike & Judy Smythers, by Cynthia & James Brewer
Jean & Bill Urbach, by Dawn Mickel & John Giardini
Flower & Ed Van Kan, by MaryAnn & Steve Valluto; Jon D. & Mary V. Mikalson; and, Judy Herndon.
Krista Waibel, by Suzanne V. & Daniel W. Klett; Brent Pitts; Hunter B. Price for her Birthday; and, Vicki & Robert Martin for her work with feral cats.
Hazel Walker, by Doug & Marlene Almstead
Ayden & Celeste Warren, by Alice H. McFadden
Megan Weaver, on her 30th Birthday, by Theresa Tocco
Marilyn & Phil Williams, by Judy Williams Holmes
Mrs. Louise Wood, by Hughes C. Ruby Swain
Tedi Wright, by Alice & Duner Tor (2x); Barbara W. Horn;
Jeffrey B. Ferrill; Doug & Elizabeth Hedstrom; Stephen & Rebecca Seiple; and, Emily Nelson
Andy Zemon, by Waterstone Mortgage
Andy & Chandra Zemon by Gloria T. Ashley

Honoraria for Pets

All Homeless Pets, by Lois A. Werner
All Our Animals, by Lisa & Jerry Bryant
All the Woolard Family Rescues,
by Margaret & James Woolard
Angel Jarvis, by Elizabeth W. & James E. Jarvis
Annie Harvey, by Stephen C. Martin
Bailey & Trudi, by Frankie & Patricia Hogan
Barney (from AH), by Bette & Charles Flickinger
Barney's Friends at AH, by Bette & Charles Flickinger

Bartholomew Cat#18847, by George Tom Sendall
Carmel (fka Hickory), by Brittany Forderkonz
Cat Rocky, on his first Birthday,
by James & Sayoko MacDougal
Charlotte & Savanna, by Wendy & Larry Teeter
Elroy by Michael D. & Martha B. Hill
Gracie, our lovely dog fka Altair, by George & Trudy Mitchell
Hope, by Sandee Weiner
Janeway, by Robert Tharpe, II
Josie & Shadow, pets of Evan & Taylor Boyd,
by Ruth & H. Boyd
Katie & Honeybee, by Mary C. (Cathy) Stevens Parrish
Katie, by Mary C. (Cathy) Stevens Parrish
Kip, fka Pharoah, by Laura R. Pyle & Dan Wright
Lauren & Flash, dogs of Kay Pfaltz, by Susan Ordway Pfaltz
Maggie, adopted from AH Jan 2007, by Gayle D. & Brian P. Lovetere
Maggie, by Linda Goldstein
Mama Cass and her 7 Kittens (2x), by Patricia Jane Skeen
Max, the sweetheart of our neighborhood, by Dick & Susie Hodgson
Merle, dog adopted from AH, by Jaye Davis
Micky & Brutus, by James K. & Sayoko MacDougal
Miles, by Jerry D. & Rosalie S. Gowen
Nellie, Merrie & Quixote Fratnik (2x), by Dr. Lorri E. Cooper
Pooh Bear Brownley, by Barbara C. & Michael W. Brownley
Quinney, by Kathleen Ladika & Deborah L. Erickson
Reese, by Carter & Ashley East
Reykasa & Vicki (fka Casa & Dottie), adopted from AH, by John & Catherine Kemper
Riley & Coco, by Harrison & Carter Thomson
Rosie (Rosemary), by Sara L. Courson & Jason Heuer
Rumor & Godric, by Eric H. & Sandra F. Maslen
In Special Honor of Sable, aka Sally, by Nancy & Bruce Summers
Sasha, by Jeremy F. Graybill
Shadow II, by Jon D. & Mary V. Mikalson
Tonka, Cody & Mocha, by Margaret & James Woolard
Tucker, my terrific rescue, by Ellen L. Henderson
Wade, by Diana D. & Larry Tyler
Zoe & Rigby, by Jessie Dean
Zola, by Ellen Adams

Visit us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/nelsonspca

Different Ways People Are Helping Almost Home

Meet Our Cat Whisperer

Almost Home's cat population is becoming less stressed, thanks to the efforts of Suzanne Morris, a speech-language pathologist for over fifty years. Suzanne visits the cats once a week, bringing her special music, which calms and enchants even the shy ones. It is amazing to watch cats who hide most of the time come out, make eye contact, and appear at ease. Suzanne loves her work, and the cats clearly respond to her magic! She has also volunteered to teach others her calming methods.

To learn more, as well as view pictures of the cats Suzanne helps, visit the AHPAC website at <http://www.nelsonspca.org/>



Suzanne Morris visits the cats at Almost Home once a week and charms them with her special music.

'Critter Coffee' Donations

For over fifteen years, Dana Henderson has been hosting a "Critter Coffee" event each December. Dana and her friend Trish Burton came up with the idea to combine a holiday get-together with gathering needed items for local shelters.

This year Almost Home was the recipient of their generosity, which included an SUV full of items, as well as monetary donations, delivered by the hostesses.

The breakfast is held at Dana's house, decorated for the holidays, where an extensive array of food and beverages is provided. Their friends arrive in all manner of dress, sometimes still in pajamas, for the 9-noon event, and bringing an item to donate. If they are unable to attend, they may still bring an item and leave it in Dana's vehicle.

Everyone at Almost Home was so surprised and delighted when they arrived with the donations. The Critter Coffee is a unique and fun way to help, and Almost Home is so pleased they came to us!



The 'Critter Coffee' event resulted in lots of donations.

A Therapy Group for Shelter Dogs

Flower Vankan, Lish Lorenz, Jodie Edwards, and Pam Urso started a Dog Therapy Group in November 2016 with a Mission of enabling shelter dogs to become more adoptable and have fun at the shelter while waiting to be adopted. The group meets at the shelter nearly each Saturday and Sunday between 11 am and 3 pm, to spend loving time with each dog, get to know and train them, and create accurate write-ups for each.

The group especially concentrates on

the neediest dogs. Diaries of each weekend's experiences are emailed to Fonda Bell, Dog Intake Manager, to update her on each canine's progress. Schedules are loosely coordinated as the facilitators work independently or as a group.

Funny how the humans provide the therapy and everyone reaps the rewards!

The group is open to anyone who wants to help dogs have fun while they wait for their forever homes.



At left, Lish Lorenz with Brent and Flower Vankan with Henry. (Not pictured are Jodie Edwards and Pam Urso, who also helped start the group.)

Volunteers Keep New Trail in Shape

And it gets 2 new
rustic benches

In Fall of 2015, the UVA's women's softball team created a dog walking trail on the adjacent property that AHPAC had acquired the year before. Building on their initiative, many hands have continued to improve the trail. Recently, a mountain of wood chips was donated by Arboristry Associates of Charlottesville and hauled to AHPAC by volunteers. The chips were moved by the muscle and energy of fourteen students from the Judge Advocate General program at UVA Law School, who also began clearing the overgrown fence line around the shelter. The trail is now covered with wood chips to keep mud down and increase safety for both dogs and walkers. These industrious volunteers said they enjoyed helping a shelter that



At top and above left, the UVA Law School volunteers who pitched in to improve the trail. Above right, Richard Will and Spanky on one of the new benches, built by a volunteer, on the Happy Tail Trail. Spanky has since been adopted!

"really needed them." Their hard work has since inspired others to continue fence clearing and other necessary outside chores. Another volunteer built and installed rustic benches, creating

places to sit, rest yourself, and enjoy the love of a dog grateful for some one-on-one time. Come visit and walk with a furry four-legged friend on the Happy Tail Trail!

Toodles Defies the Pit Bull Prejudices

Toodles doesn't know about pit bull reputations. She doesn't know that a lot of people have prejudices against the breed. She doesn't know that some shelters won't allow anyone to adopt a dog like her. She doesn't know that she is part American pit bull terrier, and that there are people who don't think that's good. Almost Home knew when we took this perky-eared girl under our wing that her pit bull heritage could work against her. Our adoption center, however, doesn't save dogs' lives

based on their breed but rather on their need. Toodles was given up by her owners when they could no longer care for her. We believed we could find a forever home for her with people who would see beyond her breed name and observe how gentle of heart she is. Come meet this generous athlete and see how her eyes gleam with gratitude and how willing she is to learn. Toodles truly deserves a great home.



Toodles

Thrift Shops Team Up, Throw Fun Fashion Show

When the two non-profit thrift shops in Nelson County teamed up for a fashion show, the result was "Rescue Runway" held on May 6th. Almost Home's Thrift Shop and Rockfish Valley Community Center's Treasure Chest both have an abundance of attractive, affordable clothing. To showcase this, models were recruited from both groups and outfits selected.

Entertainment was provided as the crowd gathered for the show at RVCC. Tables were set with beautiful flowers and thrift shop dishes, finger foods and beverages were served, fabulous raffle prizes displayed and each shop had a table of merchandise for



To the many people who donated items, we say a grateful thank-you and have posted those names on our website.

sale. As showtime approached, emcee Stu Mills, dapper in a tux, took the mic. As each model strutted down the catwalk, Stu described their ensemble and its (amazingly low!) price revealed. Several models walked with their rescue dogs, adding to the laugh-

ter and applause.

Both non-profits agreed "Rescue Runway" was fun and successful and hope it becomes an annual event.

Please see our website to view the many donors who made "Rescue Runway" a success.

Rescued Amos Is Now Helping Families Heal

Amos was one of 14 dogs seized locally as part of a neglect/hoarding case last December. He was transferred to the Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter in New Jersey, where his big brown eyes and teddy-bear face stole the heart of Shannon, the intake manager at Mt. Pleasant. Amos, who was transferred in February, was soon featured on a local television station's Valentine's Day adoption event. As a result, he was adopted by a wonderful family that was grieving the recent loss of their family dog. Shannon recently sent us this nice update on what Amos is up to:

Amos is doing amazingly well; he's put on weight and his new owners adore him! After losing their last dog, they never expected to want another one, let alone one that looked so similar. Amos has helped his entire family heal and they now take him to pet loss grief meetings to help others heal. He loves it.

Amos surely had a larger purpose in this world than anyone could have imagined. He was already great but now he helps heal broken hearts for people that loved and lost their pets.



Amos, the dog at left, is helping families who are grieving their lost pets.

Humane Society/SPCA of Nelson County
29 Stagebridge Road
Lovington, VA 22949

Almost Home Pet Adoption Center



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Charlottesville, VA
Permit No. 232



Meet Fanny. Your new dog or cat is waiting for you at Almost Home, at the corner of US-29 and State Road 624, about 2.5 miles north of Lovington. Stop by or visit our website at **www.nelsonspca.org**.

Matching Fund Recap

The Board of Directors of the Humane Society/SPCA of Nelson County wishes to thank a very special group of donors who collectively pledged \$60,000 for the 2016 Holiday Matching Funds Campaign. The response from supporters was overwhelming, with a record of nearly \$120,000 raised to support the operation of our no-kill Almost Home Pet Adoption Center. We are so thankful to all for making it possible for us to continue to help 800 to 1,000 homeless animals annually. We are "The Little Shelter That Can," but without your help we couldn't.