

**VISIT US AT OUR
UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

**Spay/Neuter
Transfer Van-**

Wednesday, March
9th, RAS to Barron's

**Chili Sale Delivery
Day -** Saturday,
March 5th

**Paws for
Celebration
Organizational Mtg**
- Monday, March 7th,
7:00pm, office of TL
Pyne

**IRHS Monthly
Meeting -** Tuesday,
March 15th 6:30pm,
KW Ruritan Bldg.

**4 Paws Monthly
Meeting -**
Wednesday, March
30th, 6:00pm, Tony &
George's

**Spay/Neuter
Transfer Van-**
Wednesday, March
30th, RAS to Barron's

**Tappahannock
Farmers Market -**
Saturday, April 16th,
historic downtown
Tappahannock,
9:00am - 1:00pm

**Paws for
Celebration -**
Saturday, May 14th,
11:00am - 8:00pm,
WP Town Park



4 PAWS THRIFT
801 Main Street
West Point, VA
804-843-2902

Hours:
Thursdays & Fridays
10:00 am - 5:00pm
Saturdays
10:00am - 3:00pm



IRHS and 4 PAWS News

March 2016

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It has been a crazy winter on the middle peninsula. I especially keep in my prayers all those in Essex County and Central Virginia who were impacted by the tornados on February 24th. Let's hope spring is around the corner (as predicted by the groundhog), and it is uneventful.

The Essex County Shelter took in several dogs and cats that had been found after the tornados. We've been sharing their pictures on our Facebook page in hopes they are reunited with their family. We've also contacted Ellen Shifflett, the manager of the shelter, to offer whatever help we can in this situation. At this writing, we are unsure what that may be, but it's certainly likely that some of the misplaced dogs and cats don't have a home to go to. They may need long-

term fostering, and we will try to help with that. We could be putting out a call to help in that regard. We sometimes forget about the pets during a tragedy.

Many of our friends and supporters have donated supplies and volunteered time to help those in need in our community. And we certainly applaud those efforts. We absolutely want to make sure our neighbors are taken care of while they work to reestablish their homes and lives. We hope to help by making it easier to worry less about their pet, and how they will care for it during a transitional period.

Those of us with Indian Rivers Humane Society dedicate our volunteer activities to

homeless animals, and that includes temporarily homeless animals. It's heartwarming to see folks come together to help their neighbors and community. We hope that we are able to make a difference in that regard, too. You never know when it might be you who needs help.

If you feel a calling to help, we'd love to have you. A small gesture on your part can make a world of difference to someone in need.

Anne



Some of our kitties looking for “forever” homes



Smokey



Ana



Lily



Bandit



Smokey

ALL THINGS CATS

A clean litterbox means a happy home — both for you and your cat. A clean box helps keep your home smelling fresh, and it also encourages your cat to use the box faithfully. You'll not only diminish the chance of “accidents” around the house but you'll also make your cat feel comfortable about using the litterbox, keeping your cat healthier. Cats that wait to urinate run the increased risk of developing urinary tract issues—so it's important to make that litterbox inviting. Here are a dozen tips to keep your litterbox clean and appealing to your feline:

Offer multiple litterboxes

How many litterboxes should you have? The general rule is one box per cat PLUS an extra box.



Choose the locations wisely

Avoid the most heavily trafficked areas in your home as well as noisy areas, such as near a washing machine. Many cats also like a litterbox room that has multiple entrances so they don't feel trapped in a room.

Scoop and scoop some more

Scoop the litterbox often. Multiple litterboxes make it easier to keep each box clean but if your cat comes to the box before you scoop, having extra boxes makes it easy for him to pick a different box. No one likes to use a dirty restroom!



Skip the liner

Cats don't like scratching down and snagging a claw in a liner. Just skip the liner.

Choose large boxes

Your litterbox should be one and a half times as long as your cat. We use underbed storage boxes as litter trays.

Consider tall sides for some cats

Male cats that overshoot the side of the litterbox and cascade urine around the box might do well in a box with tall sides. These boxes also benefit cats who kick litter like crazy. You may need to cut a lower opening in one side of the box, especially if you have an older cat who may have trouble accessing a tall-sided box.



Consider clear boxes

Have you ever gone to a restroom in a portable toilet and worried, as you opened that opaque door, just who or what was waiting outside? Your cat feels the same way in an opaque litterbox, especially one with tall sides. Clear boxes give your cat the chance to see if anyone's walking up on them.

Skip hooded boxes

Hooded boxes make many

cats feel trapped inside. They may either avoid the box or decided to get in and out so quickly they don't cover up the mess.



Don't overfill or underfill the litterbox

Cats don't like the sensation of sinking down in the litter which will happen if you overfill the box. On the other extreme, a box with too little litter winds up with a puddle when your cat scratches all the litter to one side of the box.

Wash the litterbox

Every week, take the litterboxes outdoors and wash each with dishwashing detergent and warm water, filling the box and soaking for five – 10 minutes. Stubborn odors can be tackled with a vinegar and water solution. Every year, plan to recycle that old box and start with a new one.

Sprinkle baking soda

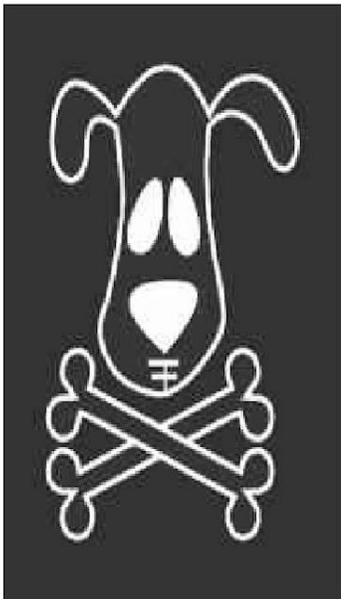
A sprinkle of baking soda at the bottom of the box will absorb odors without any deodorizing smell that might be offensive to your cat.

Buy a litter mat

Litter has a way of finding its way out of the box so stop the journey with a litter mat just outside the box.



Kathy



MARCH IS PET POISON PREVENTION MONTH

Let's remember to animal proof our homes/yards as we do our children. Here are some common food and household products that are harmful to your pets:

- * Apple Seeds * Avocado Seeds * Cherry Pits * Iris Bulbs * Peach Pit * Mushrooms * Walnut
- * Rhubarb * Poison Ivy * Jasmine Berries * Laurel * Toadstool * Tulip Bulbs * Tobacco
- * Aftershave * Antifreeze * Aspirin * Bleach * Brake Fluid * Deodorants * Detergents
- * Drain Cleaners * Dye * Furniture Polish * Gasoline * Hair Colorings * Herbicides * Laxatives
- * Mothballs * Nail Polish & Remover * Paint * Rat Poison * Rubbing Alcohol * Shoe Polish * Tar
- * Sleeping Pills * Snail & Slug Bait * Soaps * Suntan Lotions * Toilet Bowl Cleaners * Turpentine
- * Windshield Washer Fluid * Wood Preservatives * Prescription Drugs

This is just a few items listed. Remember to act fast if your pet(s) have digested any of these items by getting as much info as you can before you call your veterinarian.



INDIAN RIVERS HUMANE SOCIETY

Funds from the sale of the Chili supports the Spay/Neuter programs for IRHS and for the Building Fund at Old Church.

Have paired up and are making homemade Chili
Quarts are \$8.00 each

Make checks payable to
IRHS
Order Deadline: March 2nd



Pickup orders: Saturday, March 5
12:00 noon - 3:00pm
4 Paws Thrift: 801 Main St, West Point
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Old Church United Methodist, 26602 The Trail
Mattaponi

For more information or to place an order, please contact either
Connie Prince 804-824-8640 (text) email: Johnny.clark@cox.net
Or
Kim Carlton 804-366-1376 (text) email: kayonbruce@yahoo.com

The Chili is being prepared as this newsletter is being distributed. Connie will have a report on this project next month.

Have you thought about installing a pet door for your dog or cat? We have recently partnered with PetDoors.com. If you order a pet door from this website, you will save 10%, and they will donate that 10% to us. You'll just need to identify us as you check out.

There will be an organizational meeting for the Paws for Celebration Event on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00pm in the conference room of TL Pyne, PC, 3560 King William Avenue, West Point, VA. Anyone wishing to volunteer with the planning of this event is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Kathy at 804-512-8110 or kathaurand@aol.com



Get "Lucky"! Adopt from the Regional Animal Shelter!



For the month of March, to encourage adoptions, the spay/neuter fee will be paid for by the Indian Rivers Humane Society, (\$100 value for dogs, \$70 value for cats). The cost of adoption is only \$20, to help recover the cost of vaccinations and parasite treatments provided by the Shelter.

20201 King William Rd, King William, VA 23086

804-769-4983 animalshelter@kingwilliamcounty.us

www.kingwilliamcounty.us/ras

www.facebook.com/regionalanimalshelter

Adoption Visiting Hours:

Monday-Friday, 11am-4pm, Wednesdays until 6pm

Saturdays 11am-2pm.



IRHS is again sponsoring the spay/neuter surgery for any animal adopted from the **King William Regional Animal Shelter** AND the **Tappahannock-Essex County Animal Shelter** in March. Hope y'all "get lucky"!



We are in need of your help! 4 Paws desperately needs fosters and cat food. We are aware of several cats/kittens that need to be rescued; however, we have no place for them to go. All of our regular fosters are full. Without someone to give them a temporary home, we cannot help them.

We also assist people who are feeding colonies of cats. These cats have become dependent on their caregivers for food. Without these regular feedings, the cats would not be able to withstand the cold winter temperatures. We are terribly low on our dry and wet food supplies.

Donations of food can be delivered to 4 Paws Thrift Store; Tony & George's Restaurant or Haurand Kennels.

These are dogs currently at the Essex shelter being found lost after the recent tornados



ALL THINGS DOGS

These days everyone knows about the plight homeless pets face every day. There is abandonment, shelter overcrowding, and euthanasia. Rescue groups make efforts to save them, but still many fall through the cracks. You can help.

Fostering provides an alternative to shelter environments. Even the best shelters (and our local shelters in King William and Essex do tremendous jobs) are still shelters, which are generally stressful places for the animals. They are cooped up in unfamiliar kennels, lack attention, and may require medical care. It is an overwhelming place of strange smells, sounds and people. Fostering provides stability, routine, attention and emotional and physical support.



Fostering gives the animal a chance to improve. Unfortunately, shelters are usually unable to provide consistency, care, and training that can help an animal realize its potential for adoption. Minor health or behavioral problems can better be addressed in a foster situation.

Fostering saves the animal's life. Overcrowding in shelters unfortunately leads to euthanasia. Municipal shelters should be temporary housing, but too often animals are surrendered for a variety of reasons, and the shelter isn't capable of housing many animals long term. Fostering takes euthanasia out of the equation.



Fostering can provide a terminally ill animal with a peaceful end. It's sad that pet owners will surrender their animal because of health issues. These are generally the first to be put down at the shelter. These pets deserve better. A foster can help provide a joyful end of life, filled with warmth, kindness and love.

Fostering enriches YOUR life. Animals improve your quality of life. They reduce stress and improve anxiety and depression symptoms. The companionship, petting, cuddling and caring for an animal provides endless emotional benefits.



Indian Rivers Humane Society is always looking for new foster homes (dogs or cats). If you are interested in saving just one life, please contact us. We will work with you to make it a successful experience for you and the pet. I promise you won't be sorry you took the chance.

Anne



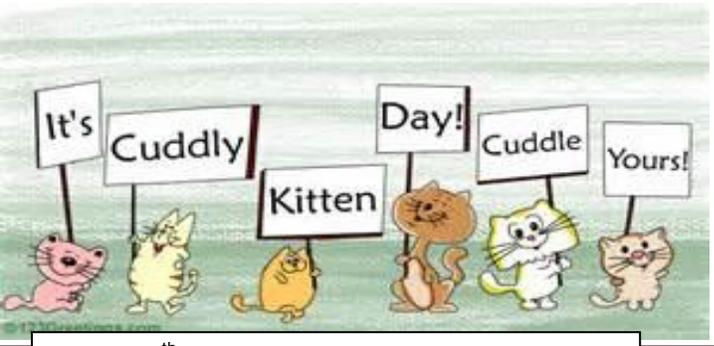
March 3rd



March 6 – 12, 2016



March 23rd



March 13th



Easter Sunday, March 27th



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



March 17th

