

**VISIT US AT OUR
UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

**Paws for
Celebration
Organizational Mtg**
– Tuesday, May 10th,
Tony & George's,
6:00pm

**Spay/Neuter
Transfer Van**–
Wednesday, May 11th,
RAS to Barron's

**IRHS Monthly
Meeting** – Tuesday,
May 17th 6:30pm, KW
Ruritans Bldg

**Tappahannock
Farmers Market** –
***IRHS will not be at
this event this
month***
Saturday, May 14th,
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

May 2016

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Are you ready for our big fund-raiser, Paws For Celebration? It's scheduled for Saturday, May 14th from 11am – 8pm at the West Point Town Park. I can hardly wait; it's going to be so much fun!



The event is FREE to attend, and there is something for the whole family. There will be 8 bluegrass bands, kid's and adult's games, raffles, community vendors, food and drink, and more! Bring your chair and join us for a great day. All money raised by the raffles, food & drink, and various activities will go directly toward our spay/neuter services.

Spay/neuter services is our single largest expense. We help caretakers with their feral cat colonies; we

partner with the Regional Animal Shelter to transport pets to Barron's Surgery in Mechanicsville for their super low-cost services, plus we offer additional discounts; we have a certificate program offering some discounts at local vets; and we spay/neuter any animals in our custody ready for adoption. We've also sponsored pets being adopted straight from the Regional Animal Shelter and Essex County Animal Shelter, and paid for their surgery. We've assisted about 450 animals to the tune of \$24,000 in the last 10 months.

**The top ten reasons
to have your pet spayed
or neutered were killed
in shelters last year.**

So you can see our need for fund-raising events! We've set

high goals for Paws for Celebration, and hope you can help make it a reality so we can continue this life-saving work. Those 450 animals won't produce tens of thousands of unwanted and homeless cats and dogs.



Mark your calendars and join us for a great day of music, activities and community support. A great many animals will benefit by your generosity. And an even greater number of animals won't face homelessness, starvation and death because of you. See you on May 14th!

Anne

Tappahannock Farmers' Market

Saturday, April 16, 2016 was our first booth of the season at the Tappahannock Farmers' Market.



The three ladies pictured are from the Tappahannock-Essex County Animal Shelter:(L-R) Ashley (TECAS volunteer), Ellen Shifflett (TECAS manager) and Carrie (TECAS volunteer) .

They brought three cats to the stand who are available for adoption at TECAS.



Indian Rivers Humane Society has new T-shirts and car magnets available for purchase this year! Come out and visit us at the Tappahannock Farmers' Market, third Saturday of the month. And stop by TECAS to see the wonderful cats and dogs who are waiting for their forever homes! The Tappahannock-Essex County Animal Shelter is located at 540 Airport Road in Tappahannock. They are open Tuesday-Sunday 11:00 - 4:00 (closed Monday). 804 443 0726

ALL THINGS CATS

FIV Myth vs Fact Part II



Myth: Cats infected with FIV show symptoms immediately.

Fact: Infected cats may appear normal for years. The only way to diagnose FIV is through a blood test. A positive test indicates the presence of antibodies. Since there is the possibility of false positives, veterinarians often recommend retesting, using a test with a different format. In kittens born to an FIV positive nursing mother, antibody tests will most likely show positive results for several months, although these kittens are unlikely to be infected. The kittens should be retested every two months until they're six months old.

An infected cat may not show any symptoms at all, or his health may either deteriorate progressively, or show a pattern of recurring illness followed by long periods of good health. Once FIV positive cats become symptomatic,

you will typically see poor coat condition, loss of appetite, fever, inflammation of the gums and mouth (gingivitis or stomatitis), chronic and recurring infections of various organ systems, persistent diarrhea, slow weight loss, and various cancers and blood diseases. Since all of these symptoms can be indicative of any number of other conditions, it's important to work closely with your veterinarian if you have an FIV positive cat.



A case of "just not doing right" in a healthy cat that may resolve on its own in a day or two could be a precursor to a more serious condition in a cat with a compromised immune system.

Myth: Cats with FIV don't live very long

Fact: Many cats with FIV live well into their teens if they are receiving proper care and monitoring throughout their lives.

There is a vaccine available that is supposed

to protect cats against contracting FIV, but the effectiveness is poorly supported by current research, and there is also a small risk of the cat developing sarcomas at the injection site. Additionally, cats will always test positive for FIV after receiving the vaccine, so if they become ill later in life, there will be no way to eliminate FIV from the diagnosis.

An FIV infection does not have to be a death sentence, and it is not necessary to get rid of a cat who tests positive. It also shouldn't preclude adoption of an FIV positive cat. Some cats may clear the virus themselves, and for others, proper care can lead to good quality of life for many years.



Kathy





Our last organizational meeting for our Paws for Celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10th at Tony & George's Restaurant. Meeting starts at 6:30pm. If you wish to order dinner, please arrive by 6:00 so that you can order and be served prior to the start of the meeting.



Raffle

Hand-made and donated by Treslyn Reinhart. Tickets are \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00. Contact Connie 804-824-8640 Winner will be drawn at the conclusion of our PAWS FOR CELEBRATION. Winner does not have to be present to win



May 4, 2016

Can anyone help us provide the lifesaving surgery this wonderful cat needs?

"Davie Jones" was turned into the Shelter after hanging out in a citizen's yard for over 3 weeks. His left eye is ulcerated and cannot be saved. He will require a \$250.00 surgery to remove his eye. He is only 7 months old, social and extremely affectionate, and is otherwise in good health.



Donations to the Regional Animal Shelter's Sunshine Fund for Medical Care will enable us to provide the surgery "Davie" needs, improve his quality of life, and make him a very special adoption candidate! Donations may be mailed to the Regional Animal Shelter at P.O. Box 215 King William, VA 23086, or made on-line from our web page at www.kingwilliamcounty.us/ras, click on the link under Donations, from the drop down menu under Payment Type: select Regional Animal Shelter donations.

PAWS FOR CELEBRATION is almost here! At this time, we have over 30 craft/business vendors; 3 food vendors; a beer truck; a wine table; 8 bands; a children's corner; games; raffles; a Granny and an Elly Mae Look-A-Like contest; a silent auction and more scheduled!!! We are still looking for volunteers to help serve beer/wine; sell beer/wine tickets; man our information booth; assist our photographer and more. Please contact Kathy 804-512-8110 to sign up!!



Our "big" raffle at our CELEBRATION is a Masterbuilt JMSS 800-Watt Electric Vertical Smoker and 6 Cu. ft. Poly Wheelbarrow filled with Smoking/Grilling/Partying supplies. Tickets are \$6.00 each or two for \$12.00 Winner will be drawn at the conclusion of the Paws for Celebration on May 14th. Winner does not have to be present to win.



We need items to fill the "Barrow of Fun". Chasers, drinks, chips, dips, cups, seasonings for smoking/grilling, pickles, olives etc. The items can be dropped off at the Thrift Store. It's a big barrow and will take a lot of items to fill!!! Contact Connie 804-824-8640 if you have any questions.

Urgent, Foster Homes Needed for Un-Weaned Kittens!



Kitten season has arrived and the Regional Animal Shelter and Indian Rivers Humane Society are in urgent need of foster homes in the King William and King & Queen area. By providing temporary foster care, you would be helping us save the lives of young kittens that may otherwise perish.

All supplies and training will be provided to care for un-weaned bottle baby orphans, momma cats with still nursing litters, or kittens eating on their own but are too young to vaccinate, and need to be in foster care until they are 8 weeks old.

This would be a great opportunity for a family with older children that could help with the temporary care and socialization of young kittens.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact the Regional Animal Shelter at 804-769-4983 during our telephone hours Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



A few of the Regional Animal Shelter's Adoptable Dogs (804) 769-4983



Rose



Nutmeg



Cayenne



Ace

ALL THINGS DOGS

I'm a little behind, but April was Heartworm Awareness Month.



It's easy to prevent, but is difficult and costly to cure. Dogs get heartworm from infected mosquitos. Prevention is important because there is no way to tell if mosquitos are infected, and it only takes one bite from an infected mosquito. Heartworm disease has been reported in all 50 states. In Virginia, a warm spell in winter can awaken mosquitos. So it is important that your dog be protected year-round. Heartworm preventatives must be prescribed by a veterinarian. Depending on the size of your dog, a year's supply can cost up to \$100 (less than a weekly trip to Starbucks).



If your dog does contract heartworm, there are no symptoms initially. But as more worms crowd the heart and lungs, most dogs develop a cough. They will become winded when exercising. They may retain fluids. With severe disease, there will be abnormal lung sounds, and dogs can pass out from loss of blood to the brain. Left untreated, most dogs will die from the disease.

Treatment for heartworm disease includes an injectable arsenic-based drug. The dog receives several injections which kill the adult heartworms. The safest treatment also includes extensive pre-treatment workups, including X-rays, blood work, and

other tests to determine the seriousness of the infection. Prep work can run to \$1,000 or more, and just the treatments can be several hundred dollars. Dogs must be kept quiet for several months while receiving the treatment. As the worms die, they break up into pieces, which can cause blockages in the lung's blood vessels and cause death. Exercise can increase the risk of death during the recuperation stage.

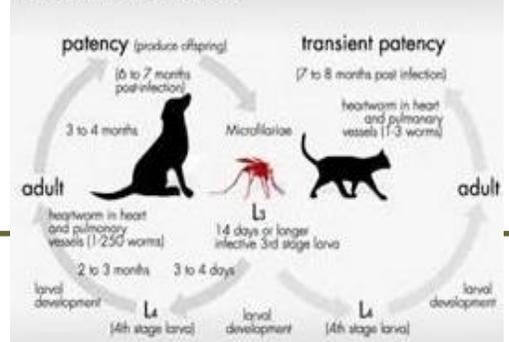
If your dog is infected, and you can't afford this treatment, continuing to give the monthly preventative will work somewhat. Studies have shown that after a couple years you'll kill off most of the young heartworms. But during that time, the heartworms are doing permanent damage to the heart and blood vessels.



If you are able to treat a dog with heartworm successfully, it's important to keep him on preventative. Otherwise, the dog can get them again.

All dogs that Indian Rivers Humane Society puts up for adoption are tested for heartworm and treated as necessary. And all dogs are put on heartworm preventative. We encourage all adopters and pet owners to visit their vets at least once per year, keep their dogs up to date on vaccines, and to give monthly heartworm preventatives to keep them healthy and safe. We also encourage year round flea/tick preventatives. You want to your best friend to be healthy and happy and around for a long time. Anne

HEARTWORM LIFE CYCLE



May is
Chip Your Pet Month



May 1 – 7

National
Pet
Week



Puppy Mill Action Week
May 2 – 8

Puppy Mill
Action Week

Don't Shop
ADOPT



MAY
IS NATIONAL
PET MONTH!

May 15 – 21

NATIONAL
DOG BITE
PREVENTION WEEK



MAY

IS PET CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



May 3, National Specially-Abled Pets Day



"A dog doesn't care if you're rich or poor; young or old. A dog will not judge your appearance. To your dog, you are the greatest, smartest, and nicest human ever born. You are a friend and protector."
- Louis Sabin



THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY
BE KIND TO ANIMALS
SHOW THE LOVE
DONATION TO A SHELTER
PLAY
GIVE A CUDDLE HUG

National Animal
Disaster
Preparedness Day



May 8th

National
Service Dog
Eye Exam
Month



May 30th

Happy International
Hug Your Cat Day!

