

**VISIT US AT OUR
UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

**Transfer to
Spay/Neuter** –
Wednesday,
September 14th, RAS
to Barron’s

**Tappahannock
Farmers’ Market** –
Saturday, Sept 17th,
9am-1pm

**IRHS Monthly
Meeting** – Tuesday,
September 20th,
6:30pm, KW Ruritan
Bldg.

**West Point Crab
Carnival** - Saturday,
October 1st,
10am-6pm

CreationFest –
Saturday, October 8th,
9am-2pm, Messiah
Lutheran Church,
Mechanicsville

**Tappahannock
Farmers’ Market** –
Saturday, October
15th, 9am-1pm



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

Open
Thursdays & Fridays
10:00 am – 5:00pm
Saturday
10:00am – 3:00pm



**IRHS and
4 PAWS
News**

September 2016

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Is it really the end of summer already? The good news for us is that adoptions usually pick up in the fall. The back to school routine makes it easier to add a pet to your family.



Are you thinking about adding a pet? Maybe you are on the fence about it? Not sure you want that commitment? Well, maybe fostering can be “practice” for you. You can select a cat or dog that you think might fit your family and lifestyle; see how they fit in your routine. You can test drive one without committing full in.



FOSTER CARE
because we care!
If you think this sounds like a good idea, call us! We can always use more fosters! The more fosters, the more animals

we save out of the shelter.

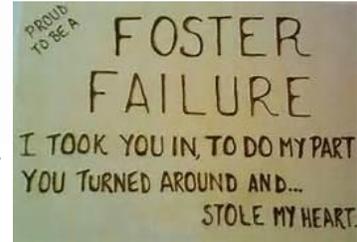


**TELL YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW
THE GUEST ROOM IS TAKEN**

What does a foster do? They provide a safe environment for the animal, basic needs and training, and love. IRHS covers all medical expenses, and can help with some necessities like food and litter. We also expect the foster to take an active part in helping adopt the animal to a loving home. We want you taking pictures and writing up bios to put on petfinder.com and social media. We hope that you can bring the animal to adoption stands or the Thrift Store to be seen in public. We certainly hope you talk them up to your friends and family who may be interested in adopting a new pet.



What happens if you decide YOU want to adopt them? We call that a “foster-failure”. But in no way is it a failure. You have succeeded in finding the perfect home for that animal—yours!



Successfully placing an animal in the perfect forever home is the most rewarding aspect of rescue work. Whether it’s your home or someone else’s, you will know that you were instrumental in saving a life and giving that animal the loving home it deserves.



Please, won't you help us?

Anne

ALL THINGS CATS

This is the first of a two-part article to help you **PET A CAT IN THE RIGHT SPOTS.**

(from wikihow.com)

Cats can be difficult to interpret or understand. They slink around your legs, preening for pets: however, when you begin to pet them, they bite you and run away. To lower your risk of being bitten, take some time to learn about your cat's tendencies when it comes to petting them.

Part 1: Establish Trust

Take it slow. When you encounter a new or unfamiliar cat, don't just charge at it and begin to pet it. Cats, like people, don't really trust strangers. Couple this with the fact that you are 10 times the cat's size, and it is understandable why it might be afraid of you at first.

Allow the cat to approach you



When the cat wants your attention, it will let you know. When entering a room with an unfamiliar cat, go about your human business until the cat approaches you and gestures that it

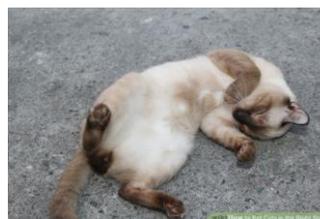
wants your attention. This could include the cat rubbing up against your legs, purring, rubbing its head or cheeks against you, sitting in your lap, or meowing at you.

Start small



When dealing with a new cat, it is best to start by gently scratching the top of its head, between the ears. Don't engage in full-body pets, ear scratches, or tail pets until the cat has become completely acclimated to you and you, in turn, know the cat's boundaries.

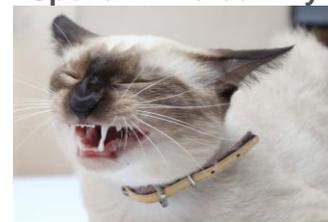
Don't pet a cat when it is on its back



A cat will often roll on its back, exposing its belly to you and looking as cute as it possibly can. To many people, this looks like an invitation to rub the cat's belly. However, it is actually a sign that the cat is showing submission to you and that it trusts you not to violate its personal space. Breaching this trust and going for the cat's tummy is a surefire way to

get bitten and clawed. While some cats genuinely enjoy belly rubs, most do not. If a cat you don't know rolls on its back and stares at you, it is likely the dreaded "tummy trap" and you will probably be bitten or clawed when trying to pet it.

Spot an irritated kitty



Most people get attacked by cats when trying to pet them as a result of miscommunication. Just because a cat approaches you does not mean it wants affection from you. A cat may approach you to sniff you and check you out, because it wants to play, or because it is hungry. Some signs that the cat is not in the mood for affection include: Flattened ears; Dilated pupils; Quickly thrashing its tail in the air or thumping it on the ground; The cessation of purring; Incessant body shifting or twitching; or Growling or hissing.

Warning

Never physically punish or yell at a cat for biting you when you try to pet it. While you may not know what they were, the cat had its reasons for biting you. Cats don't understand that you are punishing them or yelling at them in retaliation for the bite- and most cats don't care. They will simply see you as a threat or a danger from that point on.

Kathy



Update on **Tornado**. Tornado had a successful surgery and is back at home with his family and has a wonderful life thanks to the generosity of everyone who donated money and prayed for his recovery.



Update on **Vincent**. Vincent is currently in a foster home with 4 cat friendly dogs. He is adjusting well to the dogs and is ready to be adopted into a dog friendly home. He is loving and affectionate and will make a great addition to a loving home.

Congratulations to Indian Rivers / 4 Paws Alumni, Dottie!

Dottie was recently recognized by Hill's Science Diet for...
"just being adorable."
 Dottie was adopted in 2013 by Ricky Fritter of West Point.

Since then she has been treated like royalty.
 She has her own room, 3 cat trees, baskets of toys and
 as you can see...loves the camera!

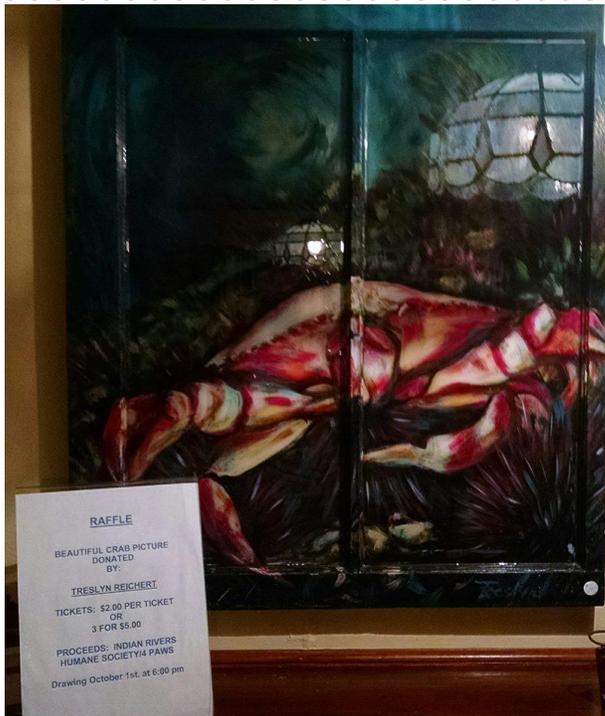
Dottie has been on Hill's Science Diet since she turned 1.
 She gets the occasional plate of wet food that she goes crazy
 over – and of course, only drinks bottled water. 😊

This isn't the first time Dottie has been recognized. She's been
 highlighted by Purina Cat Chow and used by Blue Buffalo to
 promote 'Take Your Cat to the Vet Day.'

Congrats Dottie!



This beautiful Cornhole set is now being raffled. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. For more information, contact Connie at 804-824-8640



Picture is on display at Tony & George's Seafood Restaurant in West Point. Tickets are also available there.



We are taking orders for **Plunder Key Chains.** (Pictured below) We have these 5 designs available, and they can be in your choice of either Silver or Antiqued Gold. In addition, there is a tag you can personalize: one line of 13 characters, or two lines of 10 characters on the top line and 12 characters on the bottom line. Punctuation and spaces count as a character. If you elect not to personalize, the tag will say "I SUPPORT IRHS". They are \$35 each. We are taking orders through October 1st, and they will be available by the end of October. They make a fantastic Christmas gift for the pet lovers in your life.



SHOP TIL YOU DROP Fundraiser Event - August 13th



Update on **Hope** - the only surviving puppy from a litter of 5 that was rejected by their mother. Isn't she a cutie!!! She was hand-raised via bottle feedings by her foster mom. She has been adopted!!



A few pictures of the August 27th car wash fundraiser



ALL THINGS DOGS

There is a lot of talk about taking care of Mother Earth: climate change, recycling, conservation, organic foods, etc. Did you know you can also “go green” as a pet owner?



Buy Eco-Friendly Products. Cleaning up after your dog keeps pollutants out of the groundwater. Many poop bags are plastic, and they don’t break down in landfills. You can purchase biodegradable poop bags, which do breakdown, thus lessening the amount of waste (pun intended) in landfills. Other Eco-Friendly products include collars and dog beds made from hemp or cotton, and dog bowls made of bamboo.

Use Natural Shampoos and Cleaning Products. Natural shampoos are better for your dog than ones that include toxins and additives. The same for cleaning products you may use if your pet has an accident in the house. Here’s a website to find ways to make your own, natural products; <http://everydayroots.com/pet-stain-and-odor-removal>.

**BETTER FOR YOUR DOG
BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

Feed your Pet Organic/Natural or Homemade food and treats. People are more in-tune with organic and pesticide-free foods, and the same can be said for feeding your dog. Some people advocate for a raw diet; or homemade foods; or maybe an organic commercial dog food. You can find a lot of varying opinions as well as recipes on the internet if you are interested in pursuing a more natural diet for your dog.



Buy Pet Supplies in Bulk. Often times buying in bulk saves time and money. It can reduce packaging waste, and gas consumption running to the store. This could include pet foods, litter, treats, bedding, cleaning products, and more.



Think Before Trashing. If you have items you can’t use, but are still usable, donate them! Shelters and rescue groups can often use old crates, bowls and even collars, or donate to a thrift store. Never throw away or flush unused pet medications; they can pollute the groundwater. If they are prescription, contact your vet who may have another client who could use it. If over the counter, offer it to your local shelter.



Adopt a Pet! Adopting from your local shelter or rescue group saves animals from being euthanized. That is the ultimate recycling program!



Do you have a special talent you are willing to share?

Can you spare a few hours a month?

We are looking for volunteers for a variety of opportunities:

Foster a homeless cat or dog until they are adopted

Help with special events and adoption stands

Trap and transport feral cats

Work in the 4 Paws Thrift shop; pricing donations or cashiering

Process paperwork for spay/neuter services

Help with public relations and/or newsletter

Contact us...we’d LOVE to hear from you.

Write Us:

Indian Rivers Humane Society
P.O. Box 264
Aylett, VA 23009

Call Us:

(804) 885-3109

Email Us:

indianrivershumane@gmail.com

September is Happy Cat Month!



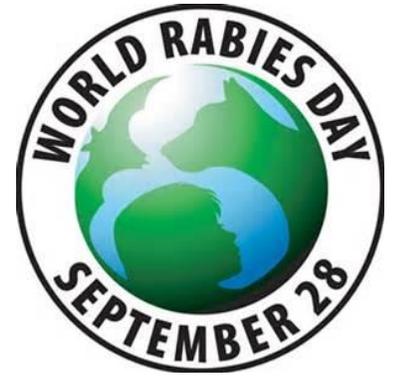
September is National Guide Dogs Month
Thank you to all the remarkable working dogs.



Sept 18-21, 2016



Sept 18-21, 2016
National Deaf Dog Awareness Week



Sept 11th
National Hug Your Hound Day



September 18-21
Adopt a Less-Adoptable Pet Week

I may look different, but I'm perfect.
Adopt a less-adoptable pet.



Sept 17, 2016
Puppy Mill Awareness Day



National Pet Memorial Day
September 14, 2016

