

IRHS and 4 Paws News

Serving King William, King &
Queen and Essex Counties

April 2017



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In the animal rescue world, we think of spring as "kitten season" (although cats can give birth several times a year). In our particular world, we try to avoid kitten season as much as possible by spaying/neutering every cat we can get our hands on. We have spent a lot of time, money and effort curtailing feral cat populations.

I am thrilled to announce that the Virginia Federation of Humane Society's SpayVa Program has awarded us a \$1,000 grant to help in these efforts. This money will cover the surgery (\$45 per cat) of 22+ cats.



We are already working with another colony caretaker to get upwards of 30 cats fixed. As you can see, this money will not last long. Hopefully we can get them fixed before the next litter of kittens arrives.

When we do find kittens in a feral colony, we make every effort to tame them and adopt them out. The kittens can be of varying ages, from new born to several weeks old to already weaned. Because very young kittens need additional care, we try to line up fosters who can provide that necessary care. Neo-natal kittens need multiple feedings a day and stimulation for them to eliminate waste. There are also special formulas, bottles, etc. necessary to get the job done.



We have partnered with the Regional Animal Shelter in King William to host a "Kitten Shower". They are collecting all the necessary items that fosters will need to help raise these precious babies. If you can donate or foster, please let us know. The more we have of both, the more kittens can be saved.

Anne

Visit Us At Our Upcoming Events

Transfer to Spay/Neuter –
Wednesday, April 12th, RAS
to Barron's

IRHS Monthly Meeting –
Tuesday, April 18th,
6:30pm-8:00pm Tony &
George's Restaurant

Tappahannock Farmers
Market – April 15th, 9:00am
– 1:00pm

Wine and Cheese/Golf
Tournament – Saturday,
June 17th, West Point
Country Club

Indian Rivers Humane Society
PO Box 264
Aylett, VA 23009
(804) 885-3109
www.indianrivershumane.org



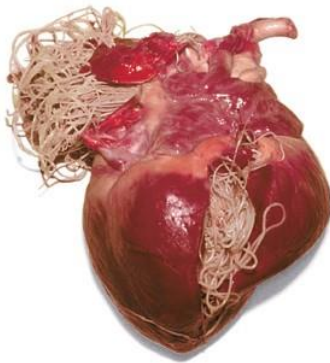
4 Paws Thrift
801 Main Street
West Point, VA 23181
(804) 843-2902

Thurs & Fridays
10:00am - 5:00pm
Saturdays
10:00am – 3:00pm

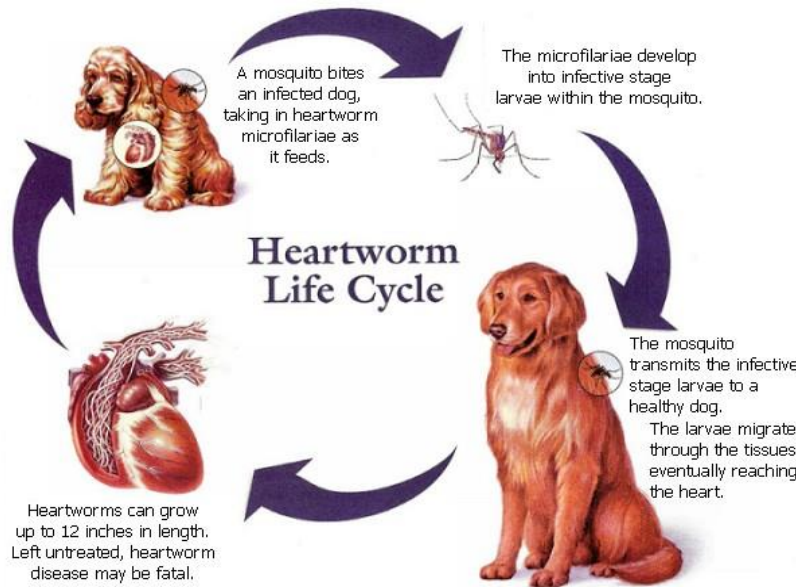
ALL THINGS DOGS

April is Heartworm Awareness Month.

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease to dogs. It is caused by foot-long worms that live in the heart, lungs, and blood vessels, causing lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs. Heartworm is spread through mosquitos.



Early stages of heartworm disease show few if any symptoms. However, the longer the infection continues, the more likely symptoms will develop. Signs of heartworm disease may include a mild persistent cough, fatigue, decreased appetite, lethargy, and weight loss. If left untreated, pets may develop heart failure and the appearance of a swollen belly due to excess fluid in the abdomen.



If your dog tests positive, you will want to work closely with your vet to insure proper care. Heartworm treatment can be both expensive and complex, and your vet will want to be sure it is absolutely necessary. Typically, exercise is restricted so **physical exertion doesn't** increase the rate of damage. Other stabilizing therapies may be necessary before starting the actual heartworm treatment. There are several steps to the treatment protocol. Once complete, follow up testing would occur to be sure all heartworms have been eliminated.

Obviously, prevention is key to keeping your dog healthy. Your veterinarian should first administer a blood test to see if your dog has been infected. They should be tested yearly, when they have their annual vet checkup. It can take 6 months for a positive test result to show up. Annual testing is important even if your dog is on a preventative medicine. The medicines are highly effective, but not 100% effective. Preventative medicines do require a **veterinarian's prescription**. **Your dog should be** on this medicine year round to insure they are safe.

Anne



ALL THINGS CATS

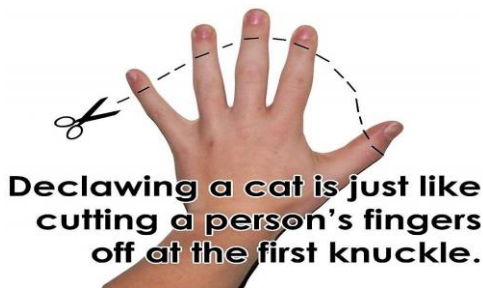
Thinking About Declawing Your Cat? Don't...



Declawing is pretty much an American thing, it's something people do for their own convenience without realizing what actually happens to their beloved cat. In England declawing is termed "inhumane" and "unnecessary mutilation." I agree. In many European countries it is illegal.



Before you make the decision to declaw your cat, there are some important facts you should know. Declawing is not like a manicure. It is serious surgery. Your cat's claw is not a toenail. It is actually closely adhered to the bone. So closely adhered that to remove the claw, the last bone of the cat's claw has to be removed.



Declawing is actually an amputation of the last joint of your cat's "toes". When you envision that, it becomes clear why declawing is not a humane act. It is a painful surgery, with a painful recovery period. And remember that during the time of recuperation from the surgery your cat would still have to use its feet to walk, jump, and scratch in its litter box regardless of the pain it is experiencing.

Some cats are so shocked by declawing that their personalities change. Cats who were lively and friendly have become withdrawn and introverted after being declawed. Others, deprived of their primary means of defense, become nervous, fearful, and/or aggressive, often resorting to their only remaining means of defense, their teeth.



Litter box issues aren't my fault



In some cases, when declawed cats use the litterbox after surgery, their feet are so tender they associate their new pain with the box...permanently, resulting in a life-long aversion to using the litter box.

Other declawed cats that can no longer mark with their claws, they mark with urine instead resulting in inappropriate elimination problems, which in many cases, results in relinquishment of the cats to shelters and ultimately euthanasia. Many of the cats surrendered to shelters are surrendered because of behavioural problems which developed **after** the cats were declawed.



Visit <http://www.catscratching.com/> for alternative ways to prevent your cat from scratching the furniture and save its claws!

Kathy H



Donation Need Of the Month

PAPER TOWELS

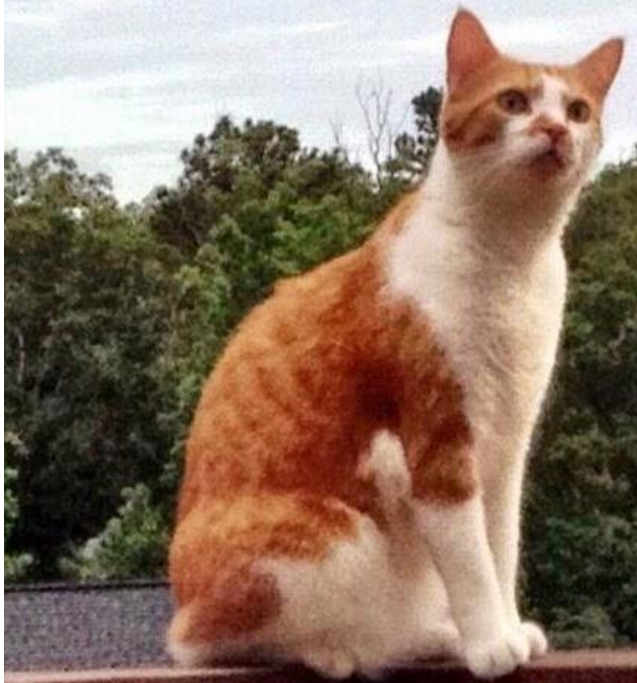


Donations can be dropped off at the Shelter, 20201 King William Road, King William, when the lobby is open. Monday – Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wednesday evenings until 6 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Peggy Sears and Shirley Haynes recently visited us at our **4 Paws Thrift Store**. Not only do these ladies have fabulous taste in shopping venues, they both have fabulous fashion sense as well!

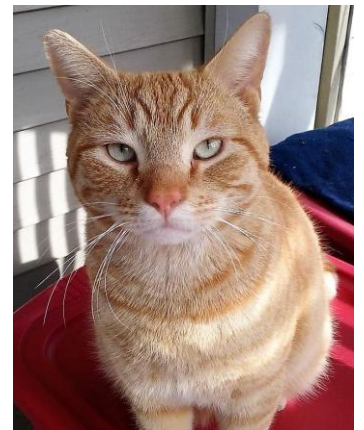
\$50 REWARD
If found
804-252-6375



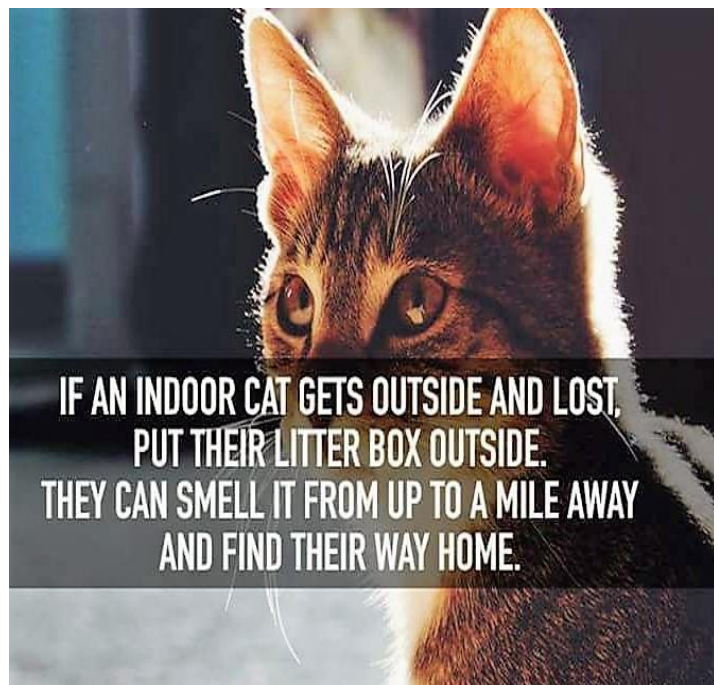
Missing in King William (Rt 30 & Rt. 360 intersection area)

Looking For A Home

Mango is about 1 year old. He is a lovely sweet teddy bear with people but can be around no other cats. He is the cat for someone who wants no other cats around. Loves to come in the house to visit but would rather spend his days outdoors. For more info, contact Denise at 804-754-5619



IF AN INDOOR CAT GETS OUTSIDE AND LOST,
PUT THEIR LITTER BOX OUTSIDE.
THEY CAN SMELL IT FROM UP TO A MILE AWAY
AND FIND THEIR WAY HOME.





Virginia Federation of Humane Societies

Serving People Saving Animals

Anne Mason, Joan Coven, and Kia Ware of IRHS, and Ellen Shifflett of Tappahannock-Essex County Animal Shelter, attended the 2017 Annual Conference of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies held March 30-April 1 in Charlottesville.

Over 200 members of VFHS enjoyed workshops, speakers and networking covering all aspects of the Animal Welfare Industry. Members of VFHS include animal control agencies, municipal shelters, private shelters, rescue groups, humane societies, other non-profit groups, and individual supporters. Workshops offered information on sheltering practices, fund-raising, TNR, and more. The key-note address was given by Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States.

The Virginia Federation of Humane Societies is a member organization formed in 1959 that supports the many members with grant money, education programs, legislative work, shelter outreach and mentoring programs. As mentioned earlier, IRHS was a recipient of a \$1,000 grant towards TNR.

VFHS introduced their latest initiative at the conference: Save.VA.Pets. In 2016, the statewide live release rate at all municipal and private shelters was 81% (meaning 19% of all animals who entered a shelter were euthanized). The goal of this new initiative is to make it to 90% or better. Virginia can become the first **STATE** to reach this important No-Kill designation.

As we digest the information gleaned from the conference, we will look at ways IRHS can do more to save even more animals in our local counties. We will also announce ways for more people to become involved in our life-saving programs. Stay tuned!

Anne



Left: Kia receiving the SpayVA grant money from Dianna Brown of VFHS

Right: Joan, Ellen and Anne at the VFHS Conference Awards



A Successful Trapping Story

It started with a stray feline, her two kittens and a kind lady who didn't want them to starve. Nature took its course and she had a feral cat colony and needed help. A neighbor mentioned Indian Rivers Humane Society, she made the call and I was notified. I met with the lady, scoped out a plan and made appointments with a low-cost clinic. The young kittens were taken into foster care and our trapping began.

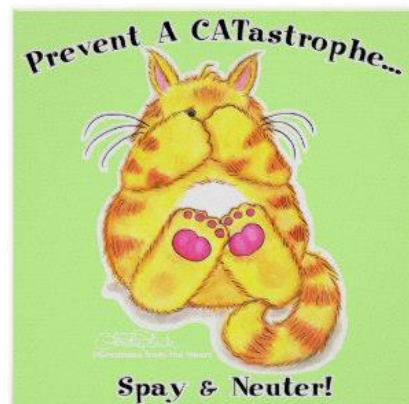
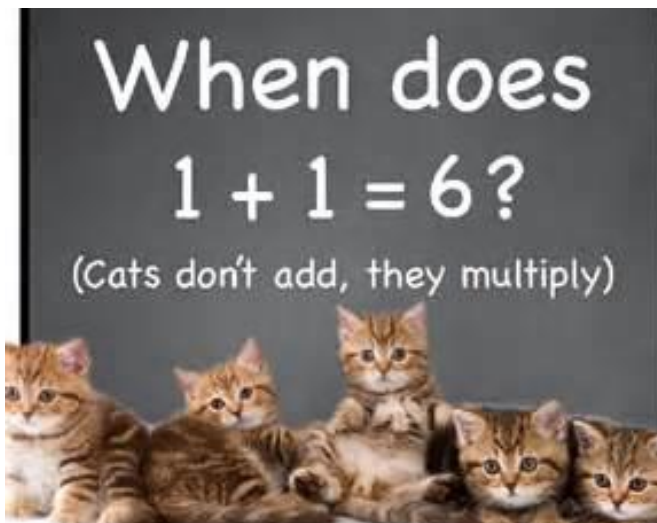
Four months of trapping during the winter months resulted in only three pregnant females. Lots of late nights begging cats to go into the traps led to Jon designing a new remote trapping system.

The system contains a remote trigger that works from over 300 feet away. It also has a camera attached, which allows you to be out of sight of the trap. You can see the trap on the monitor in the comfort of your vehicle and watch the cats. When the right cat gets under the trap, a simple pull of the remote and the trap drops! The system uses rechargeable batteries; therefore, no need to be near a power outlet.

Over 50 cats were trapped, fixed and returned to the colony. One young cat was infested with worms, taken into a home and required a month of treatment. Her life was saved and now she is a beautiful tabby, still very shy but loves to play and get brushed. They called her "Hope" and she will forever have a home inside.

The lady is so grateful, she calls us angels, she is amazed that we would work so hard to help her. We told her to call if she sees any cat without a clipped ear, she smiled and said we can count on it. She wants us to visit her as often as we can.

Donna



APRIL HOLIDAYS

April is



APRIL IS NATIONAL PET FIRST AID AWARENESS MONTH

April is



Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month

April 16th-22nd



National Pet ID Week

April is



April 1st – Every Day is Tag Day

PET ID TAGS

BECAUSE THEY'RE FAMILY!



April 1st-7th

International Pooper Scooper Week



April 11th



Happy National Pet Day!

I WILL FIGHT SO HE WON'T HAVE TO

National Dog Fighting Awareness Day

April 8th



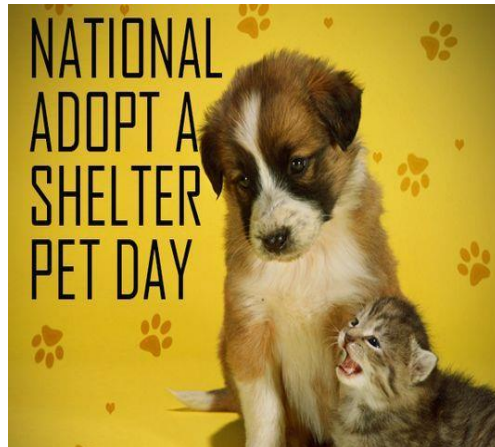
April 28th

Hairball Awareness Day



April 30th

NATIONAL ADOPT A SHELTER PET DAY



National Kids and Pets Day



April 26th

Not all stray dogs are homeless dogs...

