

VISIT US AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Transfer to
Spay/Neuter-**
Wednesday, February
8th, RAS to Barron's

**IRHS Monthly
Meeting** – Tuesday,
February 21st
6:30pm Tony &
George's Restaurant

**Wine and
Cheese/Golf
Tournament-**
Saturday, June 17th
West Point Country
Club details in next
month's newsletter



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

(804) 885-3109

www.indianrivershumane.org/



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

Serving King William, King &
Queen and Essex Counties

February 2017

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

There is a common theme throughout our newsletter this month. February is National Spay/Neuter Month, and we are very passionate about it, and we spend a lot of money on it.

NATIONAL SPAY & NEUTER MONTH

Every year, millions of healthy, adoptable cats and dogs are euthanized because there are not enough homes for them all. One of the easiest ways to stop this cycle is to stop the number of unwanted litters. It is Virginia State Law that all animals adopted from municipal shelter, rescue groups and humane societies must be spayed or neutered.



In addition to altering those animals we adopt out, we are proactive in helping people spay or neuter their pets they obtained from other sources. We also assist caretakers with feral cat colonies. We collaborate with our local shelters, Regional Animal Shelter and Tappahannock-Essex County Animal Control to offer various spay/neuter assistance to increase adoptions from the shelters.



We sponsor the Barron Van, transporting pets from RAS to Barron's Surgery in Mechanicsville. We offer a certificate program to owners, and a program to fix feral cats. In our last fiscal year, we helped spay/neuter over 500 animals.



There is no question spaying and neutering saves lives. In addition to preventing litters, there are many health advantages as well. Our goal is to stop unwanted litters filling up the county shelters. We want you to help us, which in turn helps the whole community. The place to start is with your own pet.

Anne



Looking for a "special" forever home:



Bubbles and Sooty

Bubbles and Sooty love being outside and would be excellent for someone's barn or indoor/outdoor where they can interact with people but not have to interact too much. Bubbles doesn't mind if you pet him, but Sooty prefers that you don't. Neither want to be held and Sooty does not like being picked up. They depend on each other and are together constantly and would prefer that they go together. For more information, contact Kim at 804-366-1376

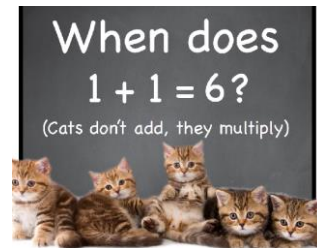


Spook

Spook was rescued from the owners. She was physically abused as well as neglected. She has been living in a foster home for over a year to help her with her healing process. She is friendly to older women, but cannot be around other pets (dogs or cats). She is spayed and up to date on all her vaccinations. For additional personality and adoption information regarding Spook, call her foster mom, Teresa, at 804-514-4296

ALL THINGS CATS

February is a busy awareness month: *National Prevent a Litter Month; Beat the Heat Month; Spay/Neuter Awareness Month; Responsible Pet Owners Month; National Cat Health Month; World Spay Day, and Spay Day USA.* All of these; however, basically serve the same purpose. And that is: **Spay and Neuter your Cat.**



The cat population in the U.S. is greater than the dog population, and it appears to be growing more rapidly in recent years. Cats' reproductive cycles are more frequent than dogs', especially in warmer weather. As a result, cats can have multiple "kitten seasons". Now is the time to spay, before those cats start coming into "heat".



Female cats that are spayed CAN'T get uterine cancers; their risk of mammary (breast) cancer is reduced by 25%; and they are less prone to urinary tract infections and hormonal changes.

Male cats that are neutered CAN'T get testicular cancer, and they live 40% longer than their unneutered counterparts. Unneutered male cats may become aggressive toward other cats, increasing their risk of injury and becoming infected with feline leukemia and/or feline immunodeficiency virus. And don't forget: unneutered male cats tend to spray urine, which STINKS!



Each year close to four million unwanted cats and dogs, kittens and pups are euthanized. In addition, there are several million free-roaming, stray and feral cats that multiply unchecked unless responsible feeders and caregivers bring them in to be "fixed." The needless suffering and euthanasia of millions of pets each yet could be easily diminished if each family alters their own pets - or strays they feed - before litters are born.



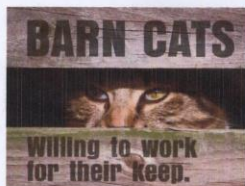
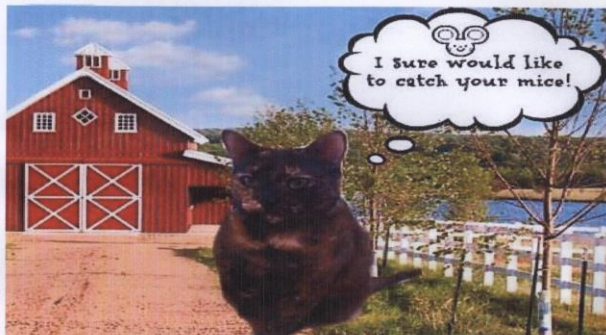
With this in mind, this February, PLEASE, have your cat spayed/neutered or talk a friend into getting their cat "fixed".

Kathy H

YOU HAVE A BARN - WE HAVE CATS - LET'S GET TOGETHER



Indian Rivers Humane Society has rescued cats that are more comfortable outdoors catching or scaring off mice than they are indoors. These cats come in all sizes and ages. They range in degrees of friendliness from some that love to be petted to those that resist being touched. They all would love to go to work in your barn.



There is no fee for these adoptions even though the cats have been spayed/neutered and given their rabies shot. The cats, however, must be fed. Fed cats stay at home and chase mice while hungry cats wander off in search of food. They also must have a warm and dry place to sleep. If it is needed, we may be able to provide a container house.

Please contact IRHS at 804-885-3109

Thank you to everyone who helped sell, make and deliver our delicious Brunswick Stew last month.



We sold 420 quarts and made over \$2,800!

The Kittens Are Coming! The Kittens Are Coming!

Kitten season will soon arrive and work must be done to save the little ones. Fosters are urgently needed to care for kittens in all stages: from several days old up to fully weaned kittens needing socialization. The kittens primarily come to us through the Regional Animal Shelter or from litters found in colonies being trapped for our trap/neuter/return program.

KITTEN FOSTERING FOR EVERYONE: Find your niche

Neonatal kitten orphans from newborns to 7 weeks.

Neonatal kittens that come supplied with mother cat (friendly or feral).

Kittens starting on the process of being weaned (about 3-4 weeks).

Kittens feeding and eliminating on their own but in need of socialization, play and human love.



The newborns are the most labor intensive (and perhaps the most rewarding) for 2-3 weeks.

Feeding every 2-3 hours

Stimulating elimination

Keeping their little bodies extra warm (90 degrees at first)

Keeping them separate from other pets and humans

Keeping health and weight records and seeking veterinarian care as needed



Team work is encouraged for this level of care.

Newborns are at the highest risk of being euthanized because under Virginia law, kittens cannot be kept overnight without providing food, heat and monitoring, which municipal shelters are not in a position to provide. If no foster is available to provide that care, the kittens will be euthanized at the end of the working day. Kittens who are weaned but too young to be immunized and placed with the general population can kept at the shelter overnight if a separate space is available but fostering is encouraged as soon as possible.

Fostering is always appreciated for any age cat. Formula, food and other supplies will be provided.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Indian Rivers Humane Society at 804-885-3109



We are seeking funds to help a dog in need. This is Marilyn, and she was recently diagnosed with Bloat. This is often a fatal emergency, but luckily this was caught in time for Marilyn. She required x-rays, a trip to the emergency vet, surgery, and other procedures. Marilyn is now recuperating at home. If you can, please donate to IRHS in Marilyn's name as we try to help cover her medical expenses which amounted to nearly \$2,000. You can PayPal to indianrivershumane@yahoo.com; or send a check to PO Box 264, Aylett VA 23009. All donations are tax deductible Thank you.



Alissa

I am 8 months old and a bit shy until I get to know you but then I will be your best friend. I was surrendered to the shelter when I was a couple of weeks old and have been in several different foster homes. I am used to other cats and gentle dogs. I have a good appetite, maybe too good, as my foster mom calls me "big tummy". I am getting a work out, however, by chasing a laser light up and down the hall. I cannot figure out why I cannot catch it. If given a chance, I will be the best purring lap cat ever. To meet me, contact my foster mom, Joan, at 757-870-6883

Haley was found as a stray in Tappahannock earlier this month. She was taken to the Tappahannock-Essex Shelter. Haley had a basketball size growth on her neck. Thanks to Ellen Shifflett, Manager of TECS, Haley had surgery and is expected to make a full recovery. A generous donation was received to cover Haley's medical bills!!



Haley – before



Haley - after



Dog tethering bill tabled by subcommittee

A bill to prohibit the tethering of dogs and other animals was rejected Monday by a subcommittee of the House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee. [HB 1802](#), filed by Del. John J. Bell, D-Chantilly, would have allowed tethering only if the owner of the animal were outside and within sight of the pet. HB 1802 stated, "No companion animal shall be tethered outdoors unless the owner is outdoors within sight of the animal." An initial violation would have been a Class 4 misdemeanor, subject to a fine of up to \$250. A second offense would have been a Class 3 misdemeanor, with a fine up to \$500. The provisions of HB 1802 would have applied to anyone who owns or provides foster care to a companion animal, including animal shelters, dealers, pet shops, exhibitors, kennels, groomers and boarding establishments. After hearing testimony for and against the tethering bill, the subcommittee voted to table it on a 7-1 vote.

ALL THINGS DOGS

February is the shortest month of the year, but often the longest and most depressing. Dogs can help with that. Here are 6 ways dogs can enhance our mental health.

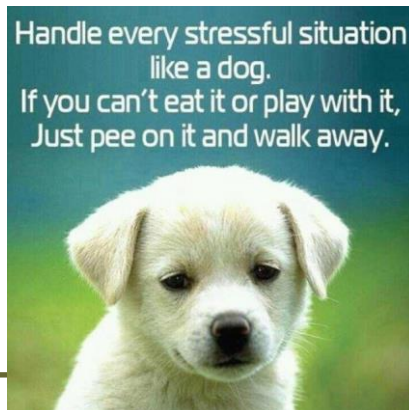
Dogs offer unconditional love and acceptance. They are non-judgmental, and more than anything, want to be with their people.



Dogs can alter our behavior. Nothing can improve a bad day like a tail-wagging, licking, dog to greet us at the door. The stress and anxiety just rolls away.



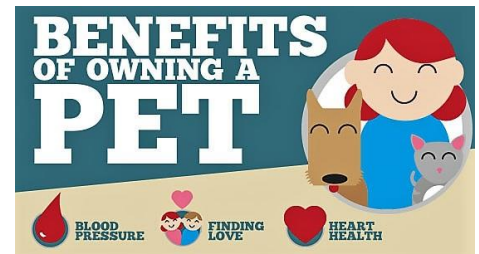
Dogs distract us from our problems. No moping allowed when you take your dog for a walk or play fetch with them.



Dogs offer the power of a healing touch. Petting your dog can lower your blood pressure and heart rate, and boost your emotions.



Dogs make us responsible. Responsibility for our dog builds our self-esteem, brings structure and independence, and promotes mental health.



Dogs enhance our physical health. In addition to being able to lower our blood pressure and heart rate, petting can also bring improvement to our immune system and ease pain. They also encourage us to move more which is a boost to our overall health. And a healthy body promotes a healthy attitude and mind.



February is
National

PREVENT A LITTER

Month



Tuesday, February 23rd

National Dog Biscuit Day



Pet Theft
Awareness
Day
February 14th

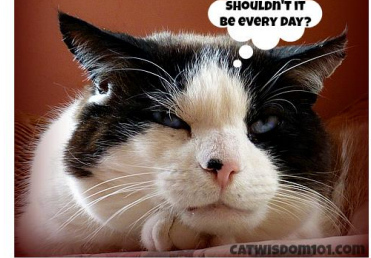
February is
National
Cat
Health
Month



February is National Pet Dental Health Month



FEB. 20
is Love Your Pet Day



February is
Spay &
Neuter
Awareness
Month



February is



Responsible
Pet Owners
Month

February 28th is



February is Unchain a Dog Month



To keep your family safe,
*chain your door,
not your dog.*

HelpingAnimals.com PETA

DID YOU KNOW?

SOME CATS
CAN BE IN
HEAT FOR UP
TO 20 WEEKS
EACH YEAR



February is "Beat The Heat" Month

February 19th – 25th

NATIONAL JUSTICE FOR
ANIMALS WEEK