

## VISIT US AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

**IRHS Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, KW Ruritan Bldg.

**Transfer to Spay/Neuter** – Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, RAS to Barron's

**Brunswick Stew Fundraiser** – January 21<sup>st</sup>, KW Ruritan Bldg.

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



**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



## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I Happy New Year!

New year, same old resolutions, right? How many have lose weight, eat better, get more exercise, work towards better health on their agenda?



This could also apply to your pets. One of the best things you can do for your pet is having them spayed or neutered.

Spaying or neutering your pet is beneficial medically (reduces the chance of many reproductive organ cancers), and also addresses the pet over-population problem in the US. Approximately 7.5 million companion animals enter animal shelters every year. And approximately 2.7 million of them are euthanized because there are not enough homes for them all. **EVERY YEAR.**

Indian Rivers Humane Society's primary focus is

to help owners spay/neuter their pets. How do we do this?

We sponsor the Baron's Van every month. In conjunction with the Regional Animal Shelter, we offer transportation from RAS to the Baron's Surgery in Mechanicsville.



We offer a certificate program. Using your own vet, we contribute a set amount towards the cost of the spay/neuter surgery. Call us for current amounts and to request a certificate.



We have a feral cat program where we will pay for the surgery, rabies shot and ear tip. You have to keep, feed, and maintain the colony.



Note: feral cats brought to the Animal Shelter are euthanized almost immediately because they are not adoptable.

All animals adopted through IRHS, other rescue groups, and county shelters are required by law to be spayed or neutered. And yet, there are still millions of animals unaltered.

**Please Don't Litter  
Spay or Neuter  
Your Critter**



If you need help spaying or neutering your pet, please call us. It's the best resolution you can make for 2017.



804-885-3109

Anne

Some of our kitties looking for their furver home



Addie



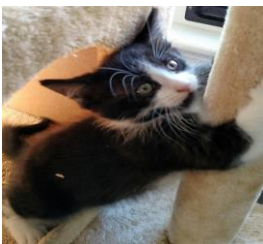
Blaze



Zero



Alissa



Asher

## ALL THINGS CATS

### Why Do Cats Purr?

Purring is the most common sound cats make. Yet we know less about it than meowing, chirping, chattering, hissing, and growling. Yes, cats purr when they're content. When yours is curled up in the sun, you may hear a gentle rumble as he breathes in and out. Touch him, and you feel a little quiver. It's almost as if he's sending out waves of calm.



But you shouldn't assume that sound means your cat is in a good mood. Or that it's the only time you'll hear it. Cats purr to communicate other emotions and needs, too.

What if you pick your cat up and hold him? Does he purr because he likes it -- or because he's nervous?

Although you'll never know exactly what yours is saying when he purrs, research from animal experts, along with considering the situation, lets you make an informed guess.

### She's Happy

Your cat looks relaxed: Perhaps she's on her back, eyes half-closed, tail mostly still. If she's purring, it's safe to assume she's in her happy place. That noise is a big smile.



### He's Hungry or Wants Something

Some cats purr when it's mealtime. British researchers studied the sounds that house cats make when they're hungry and when food isn't on their minds. The purrs don't sound the same.

When cats purr for food, they combine their normal purr with an unpleasant cry or mew, a bit like a human baby's cry. Experts believe that we're more likely to respond to this sound. They've found that people can tell the difference between the purrs, even if they aren't cat owners.



### Kitten-Mother Connection

Kittens can purr when they're only a few days old. It's probably a way to let their mothers know where they are or that they're OK. Purring also helps a kitten bond with its mother. Mama cats use it like a lullaby.



### Relief and Healing

Even though purring takes energy, many cats purr when they get hurt or are in pain. So what makes the effort worth it? It might simply be a way for a cat to soothe itself, like a child sucks their thumb to feel better. But some research suggests that purring actually helps cats get better faster. The low frequency of purrs causes a series of related vibrations within their body that can: Heal bones and wounds; Build muscle and repair tendons; Ease breathing; Lessen pain and swelling. This might explain why cats are able to survive falls from high places and tend to have fewer complications after surgeries than dogs.





IRHS shared some Christmas cheer with Tappahannock-Essex County Animal Shelter. LuAnn Turner and John Lee happily accepted our donation of dog sweaters to keep our furry friends warm this winter - and also some "human treats" for the staff! A big thank you to our friends at TECAS for all they do!



## Grant Update

To date, we have submitted two grant applications for assistance with our TNR programs. The first was with PetSmart Charities and the second with Hugs & Kisses Animal Fund. We are currently working on a grant to assist in the cost of the fence for the feral cat haven that is currently in the works. It will be a couple of months before we know if we were accepted for either of these grants, but let's keep our fingers crossed that all of Anne, Jean and Kathy's hard work will meet with success!!



Brunswick Stew Fundraiser at the King William Ruritan Bldg on January 21st



**\$8 per Quart – Presales Only**  
**Cash or Checks (payable to IRHS).**

Contact any IRHS Volunteer, 885-3109 X5, or [indianrivershumane@gmail.com](mailto:indianrivershumane@gmail.com) to place an order. Pick up will be at the KW Ruritan Building after 3pm or call to arrange delivery



We will be hosting a Wine & Cheese / Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held at the West Point Country Club in West Point. More information will be available in next month's newsletter.





**The following is a Press Release that has been forwarded to the local Newspapers in the surrounding counties. Let's hope that this release will increase donations, adoptions and volunteers...**

Indian Rivers Humane Society (IRHS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all-volunteer group of dedicated individuals whose purpose is to improve the welfare of King William, King and Queen, and Essex Counties animals and ensure that they receive humane care and treatment, to provide the community with a source for low-cost spaying and neutering, and to assist King William, King and Queen, and Essex counties Animal Control Department as the Society is able.

The 4Paws Thrift Store, located at 801 Main Street in West Point, is part of IRHS. The thrift store was opened in 2012 as a way to raise money to fund IRHS' efforts to improve the lives of pets in our area.

The proceeds from the thrift store are used to fund our programs for spay/neuter and adoptions for cats and dogs within the three counties we serve. It also funds food, medical care, and transportation of animals in our foster care. Indian Rivers Humane Society works with various veterinarians who provide low cost spay and neutering services. They also work with the two county shelters – Regional Animal Shelter in King William County and the Tappahannock-Essex County Animal Shelter - to promote adoptions. Members of the group foster dogs and cats, with the ultimate goal of finding permanent homes for these lovable companions.

During our fiscal year 2015-2016, we found homes for over 75 cats and dogs, as well as helped transport many animals from our local shelters to other rescue groups. We have also found homes for barn cats that provide expert rodent control for local farmers. Through our

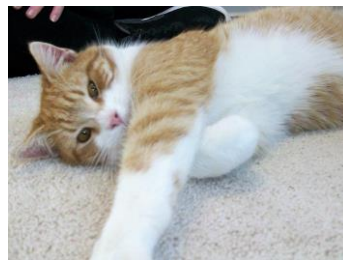
certificate program and the monthly van we run to Barron's Surgery from the Regional Animal Shelter, and our efforts with community cats, we helped spay/neuter 162 dogs and 351 cats.

The thrift store is open Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. Located in West Point at the corner of Main and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets, the store accepts donated items and sells them to the public. Donations include clothes, shoes, appliances, furniture, sports equipment, craft items, toys, books, jewelry, household and decorative items. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows and tax receipts are issued at the time of donation. Donations are gladly accepted any time during store hours.

We invite you to visit 4Paws Thrift Store and find out for yourself what treasures await you in our store! Donations come in on a regular basis so our merchandise is always changing. We are always looking for volunteers to help sort, price and display merchandise or work the cash register. We welcome new volunteers to join us in this fun atmosphere and worthwhile cause!

INDIAN RIVERS HUMANE SOCIETY  
PO Box 264 · Aylett, VA 23009 804-885-3109

4 PAWS THRIFT STORE 804-843-2902  
801 Main Street, West Point, VA 23181



**Nicholas**



**Polar**

One of the many services that Indian Rivers Humane Society provides is the transportation of animals from our local shelters to other rescue groups. There are rescue groups located outside of the IRHS area - some out of state - who pull adoptable dogs and cats from both the Regional Animal Shelter and the Tappahannock-Essex County Animal Shelter. In many cases IRHS will pitch in and do a transport or a leg of a transport. Pictured here are Nicholas and Polar, two adult cats pulled from Regional Animal Shelter by Homeward Trails in Arlington, VA. Our Jean Wightman transported the cats from Regional Animal Shelter to Fredericksburg, where they were transferred to a Homeward Trails volunteer for the second part of their journey. Just another way we can help dogs and cats from our area find their forever homes!



A few of the dogs currently available at RAS



Diesel



Bailey



Missy



Diamond



Carol

## ALL THINGS DOGS

Now that it is winter, here are some cold weather tips for your dogs.

Dogs can lose their scent in snow and ice and become lost. Keep them on leash or within a fenced area. More dogs are lost during the winter than any other season.



Wipe off your dog thoroughly when he comes in out of the snow or ice or rain. Check his paws for packed snow or encrusted ice. Know that certain salts, antifreezes, or other chemicals can be harmful if they are licked off his paws (or off the ground).



Short-haired breeds can benefit from a coat or sweater. Ideally the coat should cover your dog from the neck to the base of the tail, and under the belly.



Just like in summer, do not leave your dog alone in a car. The car acts like a refrigerator, holding in the cold. Your dog could freeze to death.



Older dogs and puppies tolerate the cold less than a healthy adult. You may have to spend less time outdoors with them, allowing only enough time to relieve themselves. It may be more difficult to housetrain a puppy in winter, so have puppy pads on hand.



You may need to increase their food, particularly if they do spend more time outdoors, so their fur is thick and healthy.



Indoors, make sure your dog has a warm place to sleep, away from drafts and off the floor.



Anne





**January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
National Pet Travel Safety  
Day**



**January 2<sup>nd</sup> - Happy Mew  
Year for Cats Day**



**National Answer Your Cat's  
Questions Day**



**Celebrate Your Pet on National Dress  
Up Your Pet Day: January 14th**



24 JANUARY



**CHANGE A PET'S LIFE DAY**

PAWESOMECATS.COM