



SPCA

Paw Printz

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A case of mistaken identity

ASPCA. SPCA Eastern Shore. They're the same organization, right? Well, actually, no. And therein lies a problem.

You've probably watched the ads on television unless the sight of the abused or abandoned dogs and cats distresses you so much that you have to reach for the remote to avoid witnessing their suffering. The spots are produced by the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, ASPCA, to raise awareness of the plight of animals in need and to solicit funds to help them through contributions and memberships.

And those ads are effective. They bring in hundreds of millions of dollars each year to support the work of the ASPCA. The organization's annual report for 2012 lists \$111,679,037 in income from contributions and memberships.

ASPCA was founded in 1866 as the first animal welfare organization in the United States. It is headquartered in New York City and, as its web site clearly states, is "not directly affiliated with" any of the thousands of other SPCAs—such as SPCA Eastern Shore—found in communities all across the country.

But since the names of the organizations are so much alike, many people assume that the ASPCA is an umbrella organization and generously respond to those ASPCA ads mistakenly believing that their money will be used to help animals in their local community.

Unfortunately for local SPCAs like SPCA Eastern Shore, this is not the case. Those contributions support the work of ASPCA and

only ASPCA. They aren't helping homeless animals in Accomack or Northampton counties; they are helping animals at the ASPCA shelter in New York City.

None of this is meant to disparage the work done by ASPCA or discourage people from contributing to them. The funds they raise do benefit needy animals in the ASPCA shelter, and it can even reasonably be argued that their national publicity campaigns raise awareness of animal suffering throughout the entire country and that this increased awareness benefits all of us in the animal welfare community.

But the monies raised by ASPCA do not come back to local communities to help operate facilities like SPCA Eastern Shore.

As a private nonprofit agency, we are dependent solely on the generous contributions of our own supporters to operate the shelter. If you want your contribution to be used right here on the Shore to benefit homeless animals in Accomack and Northampton counties, you

need to contribute directly to SPCA Eastern Shore.

It's easy to do. If you want to become a member or make a donation, you'll find a mail-in form on page 7 of this newsletter. Or you can visit our web page (www.shorespca.com) and click on the PayPal icon. Or, better still, combine business with pleasure and stop by the shelter to drop off a donation and perhaps take a few minutes to visit and meet some of the animals who are getting a second chance because you care about their welfare.



If you want your donation to help us care for Shore animals like Red and Sparkly while they find their forever homes, then you need to donate directly to SPCA Eastern Shore.



Neuterin' with Zeuterin



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Run for the Animals



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Spaying and neutering saves lives

“Please don’t litter.”

To environmental groups, this phrase refers to disposing of our trash responsibly. To those of us concerned with animal welfare, it refers to spaying and neutering our pets.

SPCA Eastern Shore’s mission is to prevent animal suffering and cruelty by providing a nurturing safe haven for homeless animals and to help prepare them with their transition for adoption into permanent homes. In order to fulfill this mission we operate the only no-kill animal shelter on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

We are proud of being a no-kill facility, but there is a downside to that commitment. Because our space is physically limited, we are, of necessity, a limited intake shelter. At any given time, we have the capacity to care for only about 28 dogs and a dozen cats, so the number of new animals we can take in is dependent on how quickly we can find adoptive homes for the animals we are currently housing.

In 2013 SPCA Eastern Shore took in 117 animals, 41 cats and 76 dogs. About 26% of these were animals who were surrendered by their owners; the other 74% were released to us by the Eastern Shore Regional Animal Control Facility.

That same year, the regional facility itself took in 1529 animals, 1007 cats and 522 dogs. While some of those animals were lucky enough to be released to SPCA Eastern Shore or other rescue groups, the facility had to euthanize 750 cats and 204 dogs, a total of 954 animals whose only fault was being homeless.

It doesn’t have to happen

Who was responsible for those euthanizations? Not Eastern Shore Regional Animal Control; they do the best they can with the facilities they have. And not no-kill rescue groups such as SPCA Eastern Shore, who save as many lives as they can.

The responsibility rests squarely on the shoulders of people who fail to spay or neuter their pets, allowing them to breed indiscriminately and create a population of animals for whom there are no homes. Some of them are brought to SPCA Eastern Shore by people who are shocked or even outraged when we have to turn them away because our facility is already at

capacity. Others are taken to the regional facility, which must take them in and where, in 2013, 62% of them were eventually euthanized because no place could be found to which to transfer them.

And still others were simply abandoned to fend for themselves in colonies of feral cats or roaming packs of wild dogs who become a health and safety problem for the communities where they congregate.

The most effective way to prevent both the social problem of abandoned animals and the unfortunate necessity for euthanization at the regional facility is for people to spay and neuter their pets.

Make an appointment and take your pet to any of our local veterinarians.

Monthly clinic at SPCA Eastern Shore

Or take advantage of the ongoing low-cost spay/neuter clinics held monthly at SPCA Eastern Shore. Two days each month, the Neuter Scooter, Virginia Beach SPCA’s mobile surgical unit, comes to the shelter and performs spay/neuter surgeries. Full cost is \$65 for cats and \$75 for dogs, plus an additional \$10 for rabies vaccination if required. Low income residents qualify for substantially discounted charges, only \$15 for cats and \$25 for dogs, plus \$5 for a rabies shot if needed. There is a 65 lb. weight limit for dogs because of limited mobile unit space.

SPCA Eastern Shore subsidizes the discounts through a \$25,000 grant from the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation and a \$5,000 grant from the Two Mauds Foundation which was secured with matching funds of \$2,500 each from Accomack and Northampton Counties.

Appointments are required for the 20 surgeries the Neuter Scooter can perform each day. Because the unit requires a balanced mixture of species and sexes, appointments for females, both dogs and cats, usually require about a two month lead time although males of both species can often be worked in sooner than that.

If you have questions or want to make an appointment, call the shelter at 757-787-7385.

And remember: Please don’t litter. Spay or neuter your pet.



2014 Neuter Scooter Schedule

March 20-21
April 24-25
May 22-23

June 26-27
July 24-25
August 21-22
September 18-19

October 23-24
November 20-21
December 11-12

Neuterin’ with Zeuterin

Hoping to significantly reduce the number of cats and dogs (an estimated 3-4 million) that are euthanized in the United States each year, in October 2008 billionaire philanthropist Gary Michelson dedicated \$75 million to solving the problem of unwanted pets. Michelson created the Michelson Prize in Reproductive Biology, a \$25 million award to be given to the first entity to develop a non-surgical sterilant for cats and dogs. In support of that goal, another \$50 million of Michelson’s fortune provides grants to fund promising research proposals.

The winning product must be a single dose, non-surgical sterilant that is safe and effective in both dogs and cats, male and female. Further, it must destroy sex steroids and/or their effects, be suitable for administration in a field setting, have a viable pathway to regulatory approval, and have a reasonable manufacturing process and cost.

In the six years since Michelson established the prize, no one has been able to claim it.

But in February of this year, an intriguing, if partial, step in that direction was taken when Ark Sciences began marketing Zeuterin (pronounced “zū-tur-in”) to veterinary professionals who complete the company’s training in proper administration of the drug. It is approved for use in 3-10-month-old male dogs.

In a procedure called zeutering (for zinc neutering), Zeuterin, a mixture of zinc gluconate neutralized with arginine, is administered by direct intratesticular injection. Inside the testes, the zinc kills the sperm, and the tubes through which the sperm circulate empty and collapse. Within days, scar tissue creates blockages in these passageways, preventing any further sperm passage and effectively sterilizing the dog for life. The dosage of zinc is such that the cells responsible for the endocrine function of the testes survive, so testosterone is still produced although at a lower level than before the procedure. The zinc gluconate and arginine are absorbed and metabolized by the body.

The procedure poses little risk compared to surgery. Mild to moderate non-painful swelling is normal, but in Ark’s field study, only 1.1% of dogs experienced complications requiring medical attention. Minor reactions were noted in 6.3% of dogs during an FDA study. The drug has been studied since 1999, and no long-term side effects related to the procedure have been reported.

The drug has been used in other countries for over 10 years. In 2003 it was introduced in the United States

under the brand name Neutersol. It was sold to veterinarians without much training or support, and by 2005 it had disappeared from the market because too many dogs had adverse reactions (mostly inflamed testicles).

This time Ark, who bought the rights to the drug from the previous owners, is seeking to avoid that problem by marketing the product only to veterinarians who complete a 5-hour course in the proper procedure for administering the drug, including both a lecture/seminar component and hands-on lab work. To prevent adverse reactions, the drug must be injected slowly and in the correct location.

Most reactions are seen within the first week after the procedure, and it is important that dogs be monitored during that time to avoid any potential undesirable side effects. This limits the procedure’s usefulness for dogs living in unsupervised conditions.

The injections are given without anesthesia although a mild sedative is recommended to ensure that the dog holds still during the two injections (one in each testicle). Done properly, the injections are virtually painless. In the FDA study, 97.5% of the dogs didn’t show any signs of pain during the procedure, and 76% of those were not even sedated.

Once the dog has been sedated, the entire procedure to administer the injections takes only two to five minutes. The dog is alert and able to return home within 15-20 minutes after the procedure.

Zeuterin is marketed in 3ml vials. Dosage varies depending on the size of the dog, but Ark estimates that on average that quantity will treat three dogs. The company offers the vials at \$45 to non-profit organizations, not-for-profit high-volume spay/neuter clinics, and shelters, making the cost on average about 1/5th that of surgical sterilization. The cost to private practitioners is \$75 for a 3ml vial.

Although currently approved in the United States only for use on dogs, in the past Zeuterin has been used off-label to sterilize cats as well as several other species. Its use for male cats has been approved in Colombia, and Ark Sciences is seeking FDA approval for its use on cats in the United States.

Yet as exciting as the emergence of Zeuterin as an alternative to surgical sterilization is, the \$25 million Michelson Prize will still go unclaimed until someone finds a product that will sterilize not only both cats and dogs, but the females of the species as well.

Run For The Animals

The 2014 Run for the Animals, an annual event to raise funds for local needy animals, is scheduled for Sunday, April 6, rain or shine.

The event was created by runner and animal lover Andrea Derby, who says that like many people she “wanted to help animals in need” and realized that even if she couldn’t fix everything “I could do something in my own little way.”

So Derby decided to combine her two passions, and the Run for the Animals was born.

Since the inaugural run three years ago, the event has been growing each year and has attracted a core group of sponsors and participants who “have been with the event since year one,” Derby says.

Last year’s run drew about 100 runners and walkers, whose participation resulted in a donation of slightly over \$3200 to SPCA Eastern Shore. The local non-profit shelter will also benefit from the proceeds of this year’s run.

The event features both a USATF certified half-marathon (13.1 miles) and a 10K (6.2 mile) run/walk. Leased canines and baby joggers are also welcome. This year’s event begins with an 8 a.m. pre-race meeting at the historic Onancock School on College Avenue in Onancock.

The entry fee for either the half-marathon or 10K run/walk is \$40 until March 31 (\$50 after that). Students can register for a reduced fee of \$20 (\$25 after March 31). Participants can also register at the race site the morning of the event from 6:45-7:45 a.m.

The first 200 registered participants are guaranteed an event shirt (size not guaranteed).

For the half-marathon, prizes made by a local metal crafter

will be awarded to the over-all male and female finishers as well as to the first, second, and third place finishers in 12 age divisions, ranging from 18 and under to 70+. Age is determined by age on the day of the race.

For the 10K event, prizes will be awarded to the over-all male and female finishers as well as to the first, second, and third place male and female finishers.

Participants will also receive finishing medals, and the top three fund raisers for the event will receive awards as well.

Not up for running or walking? There are still ways to participate in this fun annual event which benefits our local shelter as a volunteer.

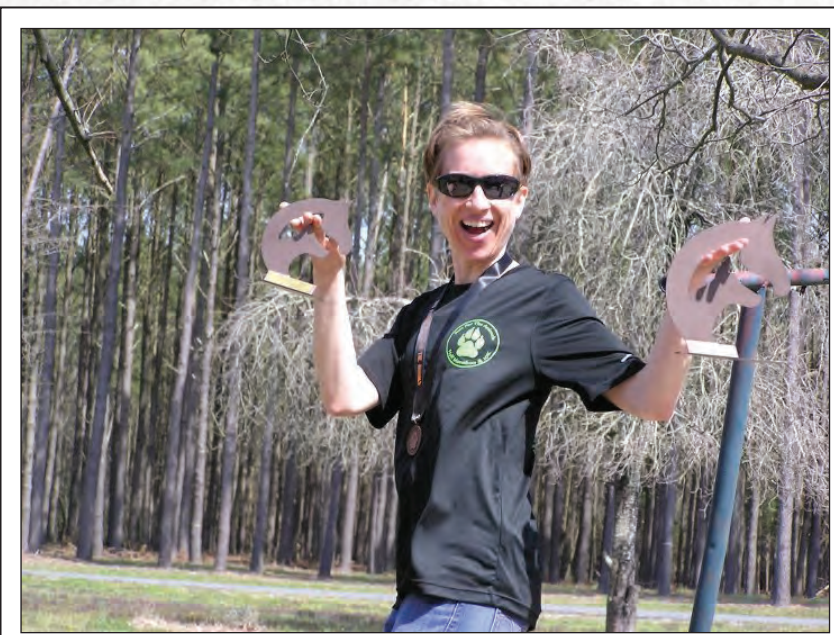
Volunteers are needed to help with set up, the registration booth, water stations, turn markers, the food area, the finish line, and clean up. Or you can, of course, simply participate as a spectator to applaud the efforts of the more athletically inclined.

Entry forms and forms for volunteers, fund raisers, and sponsors can all be downloaded from the event’s web site at www.runfortheanimals.com.

SPCA Eastern Shore will have a table at the event featuring free educational materials as well as items like our t-shirts, hats and tote bags for sale. We also plan to have one or more of our dogs there to meet the public.

Derby says that “our goal this year and every year is...just to put on a good event, so that we will continue to grow and to be able to make more of an impact for the animals on the Eastern Shore.”

For further information, visit the web site or contact race director Andrea Derby by phone at 757-999-4999 or by e-mail at acderby@verizon.net.



Beth Coulman of Atlantic Animal Hospital shows off the trophies she received for being First Place Fundraiser and Overall Female finisher in the 10K at last year’s Run for the Animals in Onancock. Proceeds from the event were donated to benefit the animals at SPCA Eastern Shore.



The kitties in our front cat room have a wonderful new cat tree thanks to the generosity of a supporter, who even came to the shelter and assembled the tree for them. Enjoying a variety of levels are (top to bottom) Biscuit, Daisey, Dorothy, and Carolina.

These are a few of our favorite things...



Adoptions—Adoptions are always a cause for celebration at the shelter, but especially when they involve animals who have been with us for a long time, like Flea (on the left) or Funnyface and Sweetpea. Thank you to the kindhearted folks who gave these sweet dogs the forever homes they deserve.



Visits from former residents—We love it when old friends come back to visit. Here kennel manager Rodger enjoys some cuddling time with SPCA Eastern Shore alumna Winnie, whose mom brought her by to say “hello.”

Forever Homes Wanted. Love Guaranteed.



Carolina

Dani

Ira

Pepper

MEMORIALS

In Memory Of

Cheryl Savage Mrs. Billie Ann Bowden
Dick Downing Ms. Lynn Ann Heinz, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Patykula
“Fritz” Ms. Shirley Dougherty
“Sperit” Hoover Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moran
“Libby” Shields Ms. Justine Shields, Ms. Jill Gilmore, Ms. Elizabeth Pinder, Ms. Dawn White
“Fuzzball” Ms. Billie Blackwell
Elvin Custis Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Savage
Richard Morgan Ms. Peggy Roberts
“Angel” Hedderich Rev. and Mrs. Harry Crandall
“Nicky” Grier Ms. Anna Grier
“Raven” Valentine Ms. Carole Valentine
“Pretty” Kidwell Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kidwell
Andrew Hannah Ms. Daphne Hayman
Tom and Ann Stephens Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hasty
“Buddy”, “Ginny” and “Jack” Needels Dr. Conya Needels
Robin Savage Ms. Ina Brown and Family
Winnie Burkhead Ms. Sev Burkhead
“Annie” Nase Ms. Tina Nase
“Mosey” Lumgair Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mapp
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“Rusty” Brown Jean and Dario DiDaniele
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Lisa Bowden Ms. Valerie Ward, Tom Northam, Adam Dingus, Sonny Hall, Chelsea Brown, Jean Lopez, Mr. Junius Neville
“Amanda” Sutton Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hall
Nancy Totty Ms. Carla Lloyd

“Luca” Good Mrs. Helen Putre, Mr. John Eatherly and Ms. BethAnn Sabo, Maureen and Terry Lawrence
Laraine Cramer Westfield Bank

In Honor Of

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Mary Murfey Mr. and Mrs. William Boychuk
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Roberta Dean Mrs. Kerry Klein
“Thomas” Ms. Billie Blackwell
Rev. and Mrs. Robert Chapman and “Dozer” Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Evans
Mr. and Mrs. George McMath and “Brodie” Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Evans
Sally Bowen Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sherman
Betsy Sweigard Ms. Carla Lauer, Ms. Patricia Killmon, Ms. June Custis, Ms. Nancy Vogt
Katie Dean Mr. and Mrs. David Dean
“Bridgette” Ashby Ms. Ellen Ashby, Mr. Sam Ashby
“Abby” Shendock Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shendock
The Holmes Presbyterian Church Choir Ms. Kendra Ayersman
Carolyn Courtney Mr. Barry Courtney
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Smith’s 50th Anniversary Mr. and Mrs. George Webb
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Savage, Jr. Ms. Jennie Meade
James Allen Arnold Ms. Jennie Meade
Mary Lou and H. M. Arnold Ms. Jennie Meade
Chery and Ben Ragsdale Ms. Jennie Meade
Allen and Mike Remorenko Ms. Jennie Meade

Remembering Luca 2006-2014



Pets leave indelible paw prints on our hearts. Luca began his career as a therapy dog in the mountain region of Virginia. He assisted young readers in Front Royal in elementary schools and at Samuels Library. He provided comfort to patients in many nursing homes and hospitals, made visits to Children’s Burn Camps and Kids Cancer Centers, and participated in local parades. In July of 2009, Luca moved to the Eastern Shore with his family and became the founding member of Shore Angels Therapy Dogs. The fol-

lowing October he founded the Books & Barks Reading Program at Kiptopeake Elementary School in Cape Charles to help second graders with their reading skills. He also mentored the children of Cape Charles Christian School. He found time to visit patients at Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital, and at Heritage Hall residents and staff alike looked forward to his Wednesday visits, which brought smiles to everyone’s faces. Luca left behind paw prints on many hearts when he crossed the Rainbow Bridge in February.

2014 SPCA Membership/Donor Form SPCA Eastern Shore, PO Box 164, Onley, VA 23418

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Membership Levels

Individual \$25 _____ Family \$40 _____ Sponsor \$100 _____
 Patron \$500 _____ Benefactor \$1000 _____

If you’d like to donate in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one, you can give their name and address below. Thank you.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Amount \$ _____

Members and Donors are a Special Breed !



SPCA Membership makes you part of a society committed to the care and humane treatment of animals in YOUR community.



Support Murphy’s Fund Extraordinary Medical Needs for Dogs and Cats

Murphy’s Fund was created so we would have money in place for extraordinary medical needs here at the shelter. Since we never know when those needs may arise, it’s important that the fund always have money available.

The most common need is treatment for dogs who are positive for heartworms, making them more easily adoptable. Heartworm prevention is much more cost effective, and far safer, for all dogs. Sadly, however, many of the dogs that come to our shelter have had no vet visits, and we’re lucky that only about 20% of those we take in have heartworms. The average cost of treatment is around \$500 per dog, a hit that our normal budget just can’t absorb.

Murphy’s Fund covers this and other medical needs requiring vet attention, as it has done recently for Chicca, a 12-year-old Chihuahua, and for kitties Ira and

Dorothy as well.

Vet care is expensive, and each time we need to take an animal to the vet, our funds for this kind of specialized care are depleted. It’s important to replenish them so that it won’t be necessary to mount an emergency fund drive and wait for money to be available before we can obtain treatment for an animal who needs it.

Only your generosity makes it possible for us to meet the medical needs of animals like Chicca, Ira, and Dorothy without having to delay treatment until special funds can be raised.

If you’d like to make a donation and know exactly how the money will be used, consider donating to Murphy’s Fund. You’ll be helping to pay for the extraordinary medical needs of a dog or a cat for whom we otherwise wouldn’t be able to provide this exceptional level of care.

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 F: (757) 789-5347 • C: (757) 678-6176
 lgaskill@shorebank.com • NMLS Identifier: 521223



J.T. Holland, Agent
 10219 Rogers Drive, PO Box 15
 Nassawadox VA 23413
 Bus 757-442-6100
 Fax 757-442-6546
 Cell 757-693-6100
 j.t.holland.bv41@statefarm.com



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