



Paw Printz

Volume 20

Issue 2

Santa Stopped by for Photos

We suspect that Caramelita Sudman might have whispered to Santa that she got the best gift ever earlier this year when she was adopted by Kent Sudman and Carol Tunstall. Indisputably, having found her "forever" home is a gift hard to top, but we're pretty certain that Santa will have an idea or two of his own for something else to leave under the tree for her at the Sudman household. The jolly old elf listened attentively to all the pups and kitties who whispered their wishes to him during their photo sessions, and we know that he'll deliver something special for each of them.



We appreciate all of you who brought your furry family members (32 dogs and 2 kitties) to visit Santa and have their photos taken at the shelter on Nov. 11.

Recognition and sincere thanks also go out to our cadre of volunteers who lent us their time and skills. Each of them made a vital contribution to the event's success. So our hats go off to the following: Cecil Watts of Watts Photography for the wonderful photos he took of the pets who attended; Santa Claus for taking time out from his busy holiday schedule to listen to wishes from our Eastern Shore pets; our decorating crew—

Jennifer Alley, Cynthia Allen, Bob Shendock, Lorna Gagnon, and Helen Putre—for decorating and setting up the backdrop in our photo "studio"; Jennifer Alley for handling the registration desk; Cynthia Allen for helping keep things moving smoothly for Santa and the photographer; Jodi Urban and Helen Putre for printing photos on site and making sure participants got their digital files by email; and our shelter staff for helping to keep things organized overall.

And a special "thank you" goes out to those pet parents who allowed us to share their fur babies' photos on pages 4 and 5 for everyone to enjoy.



2024 NEUTER SCOOTER SCHEDULE

Jan. 11 & 25

Feb. 8 & 22

Mar. 14 & 28

Apr. 11 & 25

May 9 & 23

June 13 & 27

July 11 & 25

Aug. 8 & 22

Sept. 12 & 26

Oct. 10 & 24

Nov. 14 & 15

Dec. 12 & 13

Application can be downloaded from our website (www.shorespca.com) or requested by emailing shorespca@gmail.com or calling (757)787-7385.

Don't litter—spay or neuter your pet

The best weapon we have in the continuing battle against pet overpopulation is spaying and neutering. Sometimes referred to as "fixing" the animal, spaying is the surgical sterilization of female animals and neutering is the surgical sterilization of male animals.

Low cost spay/neuter services are available here at SPCA Eastern Shore twice a month (the 2024 dates are listed on the left) through Virginia Beach SPCA's mobile surgical unit, the Neuter Scooter.

Only a limited number of surgeries can be done per visit. Appointments fill quickly, so plan ahead because it may be a month or two before you can get a place on the schedule. Applications are available online (www.shorespca.com), by email (shorespca@gmail.com), or by phone request (757-787-7385).

There are two price tiers: the regular low cost program available to anyone, and a program subsidized by Accomack County which is available only to qualifying low income residents of Accomack County. The rates for surgeries listed in the chart below become effective on January 1, 2024.

REGULAR LOW COST PROGRAM	
Available to Anyone	
Male Dogs	\$147
Female Dogs	\$152
Cats (Male or Female)	\$117
QUALIFYING LOW INCOME PROGRAM	
Accomack County Residents Only	
Dogs (Male or Female)	\$85
Cats (Male or Female)	\$72
NOTES:	
For Both Programs:	
All animals must have proof of current rabies vaccination. If proof is not shown, there will be an additional \$22 charge for a rabies shot.	
For Regular Program Only:	
Possible additional charges at Time of Pick-Up	
1. Dogs over 50 lbs.: \$20 extra charge	
2. Dogs in season (heat): \$20 extra charge	
3. Pregnant dog: \$48 extra charge	
4. Pregnant cat: \$20 extra charge	

Focus Optical & Pet Boutique features an unexpected combination of specialties

(This is the first in a planned series of articles spotlighting the local Shore businesses that support SPCA Eastern Shore by hosting our "dog banks.")

Mary Paar is a registered optician with a love for dogs. She arrived here on the Eastern Shore six years ago, having visited friends (as many of us did) and fallen in love with the small-town atmosphere of Cape Charles, reminiscent of her childhood home.

For the first two and a half years, Mary commuted daily between the Shore and her corporate job in Hampton. But when the new mixed-use brick buildings on Mason Avenue began to go up in 2019, Mary got in on the ground floor and brought her business, Focus Optical, to Cape Charles. She transitioned from corporate structure to independent optician. This change allowed Mary to use only the highest quality optical materials — to retain complete quality control and to provide high and continuing service to customers. She takes a lot of pride in this.

Mary loves animals and has been around them most of her life—rabbits, chickens and goldfish when she was a child, and dogs once she became a mom. She believes that it is important for children to grow up with pets and learn to care and be responsible for them. Mary currently has two small dogs, one of which she adopted at SPCA Eastern Shore. In no time at all the pups became best friends.

The daily parade of dogs and their people along the main street in front of her shop gave Mary the idea of introducing pet toys and treats to her shop. These products are select—not available on Amazon, only sparingly from Chewy—and all of very high quality ingredients. Many of these companies give back to the community by supporting SPCAs and foodbanks in the United States and in Africa.

We are grateful to Focus Optical and Pet Boutique for hosting one of our SPCA dog banks. These banks are located in many businesses up and down the Shore and provide funds for medical treatment of problems such as heartworm. Thank you for the spare change you drop in the banks; it makes a big difference!



Focus Optical and Pet Boutique at 232 Mason Avenue in Cape Charles is one of the local businesses that host the SPCA "dog banks," which help fund non-routine medical expenses for our shelter animals.

A vet's thoughts on fresh and raw pet diets

The quality and variety of pet food diets has changed dramatically in the past few years. However, there is some controversy concerning fresh and raw diets. Veterinary medical journals have recently addressed these concerns.

There are many options based on taste and medical needs. Fresh meat diets are those that are cooked and

refrigerated. Canned dog food is not considered fresh. Raw diets, of course, are not cooked. Both need to be handled carefully to avoid problems for your pets and to you.

The American Animal Hospital Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Canadian Veterinary Association have adopted statements discouraging the inclusion of raw or undercooked animal source protein in pet diets. Recent studies have shown the multiple nutritional imbalances in raw diets, including calcium to phosphorus ratio, vitamin A and E deficiencies, and dangerously high vitamin D concentrations,

(Continued on Page 7)

Merry Christmas to All!



Coco, Cookies, and Tequila Castaneda



Lebowski and Bea Leether



Lolly and Pepper Munden



Goofy Webb



TicTac and Annie Young



Chunky Garcia



Addie Poust



Tina Turner Sterling



Sammie and Boomer Marsh



Sig Midgette



Bubba Collins



Jack Roe



Drake Lewis



Olive McCarter

MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

In Memory Of:

- William "Bill" Valentine**

Patricia Jump, Darlene Drummond, Carol Valentine
- Fannie Belote**

Boggs Water & Sewage, Jean & Carroll Savage
- Wayne Bradford**

Susan Martin
- "Orvis"—the Best Shelter Pup!**

Marley Williams
- The Rev. Albert Lee Crockett**

Joe Ann Marsh & Family
- Joseph "Ronnie" Allison**

Gloria Whit, Mary Murfey, Bob & Betty Kerns, Jim & Sheryl Williamson, Dorothy Pitts, Richard and Ruth Beach, Sarah Whitmore, Betty Parker, Brenda & Clayton Black, Margie Spangler, Birge & Gail Reichard, Katharyn Black, Donald Black
- Albert Barnes**

Suzanne & Benjamin Justis, Stewart & Kathleen Hall, Earl Frederick, Christopher & Karen Bradley, Richard Thornton, Paul Bernard/Commonwealth Chesapeake Friends & Co-Workers
- Clyde Curtis**

Mary Ann Hatton
- "Oscar" the Dog**

Ron & Shirley-Jean Lewis
- David Rowan**

Kat Edwards, Revell Lewis & Lisa, Jan Proctor, Jon Poulson
- Pete Pawlus**

Daniel Mum, Diane & Paul Bowers, North
- Street Market, LLC; Terris Kennedy; Thomas & Connie Cake; La Promenade Shopping Center**
- Howard Picard, Jr.**

Nancy Drew
- Anna F. Grier**

Katherine Grier
- Suzy Corson**

Claire & Bill Hoff
- Margaret King**

William Pruitt
- Daniel Ronald McDougald**

Lorraine Edmonson
- Rita Soukup**

Robert & Adelaide Lane
- "Sandy" Basaman (dog)**

Bob & Betty Kerns
- Sonny Fitchett**

Susan Martin
- Irma Foltz**

John Foltz
- Sophie Smith**

Dorothy Smith
- Helen Denson**

Thomas & Karen Clark, Vickie Justice

In Honor Of:

- "Daisey"**

Mary Murfey
- "Mushu" & "Sugar Bear"**

Sylvia Cleary

A bequest continues your commitment to animal welfare



Your membership dollars and donations, such as those in memory of or in honor of some special person or pet, mean a lot to us, and we and the animals are grateful for your thoughtfulness.

But there's another way to donate that you may not have thought of, and it plays a crucial role in sustaining the shelter's long-term financial health. Please consider including a bequest to the SPCA Eastern Shore in your will.

As a private animal shelter SPCA Eastern Shore receives no government funding aside from \$5,921 from Accomack County, restricted to use by low-income Accomack County residents, to support the shelter's spay-neuter

(Continued on Page 7)

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



(Continued from Page 3)

Raw meats are often contaminated with various organisms such as E coli, Salmonella, Listeria, Clostridium, and Campylobacter. There is a risk of animals shedding Salmonella in their feces which can be transmitted to humans. These contaminants and nutritional deficiencies can lead to long-term complications.

Fresh pet diets must be shipped and stored at the proper and safe temperatures. These human grade foods can lack essential nutrients needed by our pets. The recommended caloric intake may not be adequate. The fresh pet food market is estimated to reach \$11.2 billion by 2027. The products are being heavily marketed and their data may be misleading.

Also, the cost of feeding these diets

is much higher than dry or canned diets. For a 55 lb. dog, the cost of food could cost \$4,000 per year. One study calculated a median cost of \$459/month to feed dogs between 11 and 88 lbs. compared to \$54/month for quality commercial dry foods.

If pet owners wish to feed these diets it is, of course their choice. However, I would recommend more research on their part. The above data were taken from recent veterinary medical journals.

Another interesting topic is the feeding of non-traditional diets such as non-grain and novel protein sources. More studies need to be done on this, however.

(This article was written by Dr. Conya Needels, a retired veterinarian.)

Confessions of an SPCA Eastern Shore volunteer

Since the 1970s, we had come to the Eastern Shore of Virginia and camped out for fishing weekends. As we grew older, the camping part was less and less fun, and we began to entertain the idea of looking for a house to buy for use as a fishing base.

We ended up with a nice little 1910 house that was perfect, and after ten

years living there for the weekend stays, we finally retired and moved to our beloved haven. We continued to fish but also had a desire to become a part of our new community. We knew a lot about fishing here but as yet hadn't met too many people or made many new friendships. We acutely felt our "come-

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from Page 6)

program. Other than adoption fees, some fundraiser events, and grants that we are able to secure, we rely entirely on the generosity of you, our supporters, for money to keep the shelter open.

Since we are a registered non-profit 501(c)3 organization, your bequest to us is non-taxable; your estate receives a tax benefit, and we receive the entire amount of your gift. We relay on the investment income from those monies to help provide the day-to-day operating expenses of the shelter as well as to help pay for occasional larger capital projects.

So when you sit down to do your estate planning or update your will, please consider including a bequest to the SPCA Eastern Shore shelter. The Eastern Shore's homeless animals for generations to come will benefit from your thoughtfulness.

P.O. Box 164
26528 Lankford Highway
Onley, VA 23418

Saving Those Who Cannot Save Themselves

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Onancock, VA 23417
Permit #1743

Phone: 757-787-7385
Email: shorespca@gmail.com
Webpage: www.shorespca.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Be sure to visit
SPCA Eastern Shore
on Facebook
and Petfinder
to see all
the animals
available
for adoption!



(Continued from Page 7)

here" status, which took a bit of the shine off our retirement.

Around 2015, I saw a notice in the *Eastern Shore Post* asking for volunteers who might be interested in taking a training class to become a volunteer at the SPCA Eastern Shore. An animal lover, this idea really appealed to me. Giving comfort and human contact to creatures who had no place to call home, helping to socialize dogs and cats so they would be more accustomed to human contact when prospective adopters came to meet them...these thoughts made me follow up on the ad, and I am ever grateful that I did.

The training was simple and common sense. There were a few forms to complete regarding my background and a one-day on-site training where I met the animals with a seasoned volunteer and learned how to leash dogs and how to hold the leash to ensure there would be no "escapes." My interaction with the animals at first was limited to indoor visiting. After a while, I began walking the dogs out on the footpath behind the shelter. I

had become a qualified volunteer at the SPCA at last! The dogs and cats began to know me and the sound of my voice, and were anxious to get out of their kennels and have our visits!

Cat socializing is also a need at the shelter. Simply sitting with the kitties, petting them and letting them approach you, playing with some of their favorite toys with them...all this activity produces cats who are friendlier and less stressed, and less stand-offish when they meet prospective adopters.

And not only did the animals benefit from my volunteer experiences, I made many new friends with interests similar to my own. I began to feel like I fit into the fabric of the Shore. I had a place where I could interact with other people who had similar affinities, and best of all I was helping these homeless animals to fit into adoptive homes. It was a win-win-win situation!

I strongly encourage others to inquire at the shelter and start the training process to become a volunteer...a volunteer who truly helps the helpless to find a better life!