

Chives discovers the essential ingredient to happiness

Animal shelters across Virginia know they can count on the Richmond SPCA for help with pets who need specialized medical assistance, and Chives is a prime example of how teamwork with our partners saves lives.

Chives, a stray 4-month-old kitten, was found by King William Regional Animal Shelter in dire need of medical care. There was evidence of severe trauma – likely caused by a collision with a car.

Chives had irreversible nerve damage to his right front leg, a paralyzed right hind limb, and the skin of his chin was degloved, meaning that it detached from his jaw. Several of his teeth were also displaced and embedded underneath his jaw.

This shy and defenseless kitten needed the skill of our talented Associate Veterinarian Dr. David Molinas to treat his injuries and fix his smile.

After Chives arrived at the Richmond SPCA, our veterinary team amputated his paralyzed leg and repaired his chin. Chives' reconstructive facial surgery involved the removal of his displaced teeth and the careful reattachment of the skin to his jaw.

After a successful operation, several weeks in foster care and a diet of soft foods, Chives' wounds healed, and his personality began to emerge. This once-timid kitten developed into a sweet and affectionate young cat who cannot get enough snuggles.

Shortly after receiving a clean bill of health from our veterinary team, Chives was adopted into a loving home.

Thanks to the talent of our veterinary team, the resources of the Cinderella Fund and the kindness of donors like you, Chives now lives a life full of love and soft treats. **Your dedication to caring for sick and injured pets means so much to all of us, and it means the world to the pets in our care.**



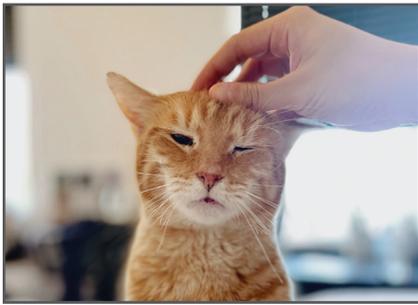
Veterinary Assistant Jessica Sesson and Associate Veterinarian Dr. David Molinas remove the staples on Chives' chin during his post-op checkup.



Veterinary Assistant Jessica Sesson with Chives, showing off his new smile.

Our **Cinderella Fund** is dedicated to helping the sick, injured and infant animals we take into our care. All funds raised through this issue of the Pet Post will support our Cinderella pets, like the ones featured in this newsletter, who depend on our staff, donors and adopters to make their happily ever afters possible.

Alumni Updates



Over the summer Winston found his perfect match. His adopter says he's a shy guy, but once you get to know him, he's a real cuddle bug!



Marshall is one of nearly 4,000 beagles rescued from the laboratory breeding facility in Cumberland that was closed earlier this year. He has now adjusted to life in a home with a loving family and loves to play fetch when he isn't snuggling with his toys.



Willow's happiness in her new loving home is infectious! Her adopter says it's hard not to smile when she's around.



Please tag us in your Richmond SPCA alumni pet photos with [@richmondspca](https://twitter.com/richmondspca) or email us updates about your adopted pets at info@richmondspca.org.

Abandoned puppy fights for her life — and finds a life full of love

At 1 a.m. on August 30, someone abandoned a 12-week-old, seriously-injured puppy near the main entrance of our humane center. When our staff arrived to work later the same morning, they discovered her — in shock — partially wrapped in a t-shirt. **Anxious, and suffering from severe injuries, the young dog, whom we named Tiger Lily, was immediately taken in by our veterinary staff who wasted no time trying to save her life.**



Tiger Lily was found by our staff after being abandoned on our doorstep.

Our veterinary team discovered puncture wounds and severe swelling around Tiger Lily's right ear and neck, missing bones in the toe of her left hind leg and a nearly shattered right hind leg. They administered IV fluids, antibiotics, pain medications and other nursing care while the rest of our staff waited to hear if there was hope for the despondent puppy's survival.

After 24 hours of intensive care, Tiger Lily was strong enough to eat on her own, but she wasn't out of the woods yet. Associate Veterinarian Dr. David Molinas normally delays intense orthopedic surgeries until his patient is stable, but in Tiger Lily's case, operation on her right hind leg could not wait. Dr. Molinas was able to treat the wounds on her face and neck, and he amputated her leg.

On her third day at the Richmond SPCA, the staff breathed a collective sigh of relief when we learned that **Tiger Lily's surgery was successful, and her condition had dramatically improved — she would live.**

A week later, Tiger Lily was taken to surgery once more to be spayed and to have the end of her left hind toe amputated and bandaged.

Tiger Lily spent her recovery period in the excellent care of Jessie Graham, the licensed veterinary technologist for our Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital. Jessie's veterinary skills made her a perfect foster care provider for the little pup who needed a lot of extra TLC. In addition to receiving expert bandage changes, Tiger Lily was able to experience safety and love in Jessie's care — perhaps for the first time in her short life.

After her recovery from severe injuries, Tiger Lily lives the life of a rambunctious young puppy.



Tiger Lily's story continues on the next page.



Tiger Lily's story continued

Over the course of the three weeks from her arrival at the Richmond SPCA to the end of her foster care period with Jessie, we saw Tiger Lily transform from a vulnerable puppy on the brink of death to a happy, healthy, young gal ready to begin a life full of love.

Tiger Lily was adopted by a Richmond SPCA staff member and continues to thrive in her new home.

About 85 percent of the pets who entered our humane center this year received veterinary attention beyond sterilization and preventative care. When you donate today, your gift will help sick and injured pets like Tiger Lily.



Tiger Lily with expert foster Jessie Graham, licensed veterinary technician at the Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital

More than 4,000 pets in AND out

For the first time since moving to our Robins-Starr Humane Center on Hermitage Road in 2002, the **Richmond SPCA came to the rescue of and adopted out more than 4,000 homeless pets in one year.** This lifesaving accomplishment is



Coordinator of Transfers Nicole Harrig and Coordinator of Surrenders Jenn Walters with two kittens they helped bring to the Richmond SPCA

owed to the combined efforts of our amazing volunteers and team members, particularly our Admissions staff, who bring animals into our care from more than 70 shelter and rescue partners as well as members of the public, and our Adoptions staff, who find lasting homes for our pets with loving new guardians in the community.

We're enormously proud of our dedicated and compassionate team for bringing these pets into our care, treating their sicknesses and injuries, providing them daily care and enrichment, training them, fostering them and guaranteeing their futures. And we're eternally grateful to all our friends who opened their hearts and homes to a homeless pet who needed them last year. **Every time you adopt a pet from the Richmond SPCA, you create space for us to save the life of another dog, cat, kitten or puppy in great need.**



Alex holding Gemini, the 4,000th pet in one year to leave our humane center in the arms of an adopter

The Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital's banner year

Our amazing Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital team saw a whopping 13,000 appointments — which is more than 50 daily — in our most recently-completed fiscal year. **That is an increase of seven percent over the prior year!** We couldn't be prouder of our awesome team of veterinarians, licensed veterinary technicians, vet assistants and client service representatives for delivering expert and compassionate care to more than 11,000 patients in our community. We're also proud that our hospital waived more than \$90,000 in fees for guardians of pets in need of lifesaving medical intervention. **One of our organization's most crucial objectives is to keep pets in homes and out of shelters, and our full-service, low-cost hospital is delivering that mission and ensuring people and their companions stay together.**



Licensed Veterinary Technicians Nicole Tacconi and Mary Riopedre

Follow the Richmond SPCA to stay up to date on our events, activities and pets who are available for adoption!

Fur Ball supports lifesaving Cinderella Fund

Last year, our veterinary team spent more than \$950,000 providing medical services to save the lives of homeless pets in our care. As a no-kill shelter, the Cinderella Fund, fueled in part by proceeds from our Fur Ball, provides a critical lifeline to the most vulnerable pets. Thanks to this fund, our transfer partners know they can call the Richmond SPCA to help sick and injured cats and dogs, alleviating space and other resource concerns across the state.

We hope you will be inspired by our “Kitten Season” video (accessible via the QR code below), which chronicles a time when our intake numbers can easily double as we respond to needs of more than 1,700 kittens. It takes a large community of compassionate people – from good Samaritans to foster care providers, as well as our dedicated staff – to make this lifesaving work possible. Another key ingredient is YOU, our kind and generous supporters. **We are deeply grateful to be a place where you come to adopt, volunteer, donate, and share your love for animals.**



Leader of the Pack for Holiday Barn Pet Resorts Michael Hughes holds Vincent, a kitten whose life was saved with Cinderella Fund resources this year.



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The Richmond SPCA, founded in 1891, is a no-kill humane society dedicated to the principle that every life is precious. We provide essential care to more than 4,000 homeless animals each year, caring for approximately 300 cats and dogs every day. We deliver affordable veterinary care through our Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital to about 11,000 pet patients each year. The Richmond SPCA is an independent nonprofit, which is not a chapter or affiliate of any other organization with Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in its name, including but not limited to the ASPCA.

As a national leader in humane care and education, the Richmond SPCA is building a more compassionate community through education, adoption, low-cost, high-quality veterinary care, rehabilitation and more. For more information on our programs and services, please call 804-521-1300 or visit richmondspca.org.

THE PET POST is published for friends
of the Richmond SPCA.

A copy of our most recently-audited financial statements is on file with the Virginia Division of Consumer Affairs.

Did you notice our “retro vibe”? This year, we are celebrating our 20th anniversary as a no-kill shelter with a throwback theme that includes our logo, nostalgic merch and communications throughout the year.

Since we became no-kill in 2002, you’ve helped us adopt 66,497 pets to loving homes!