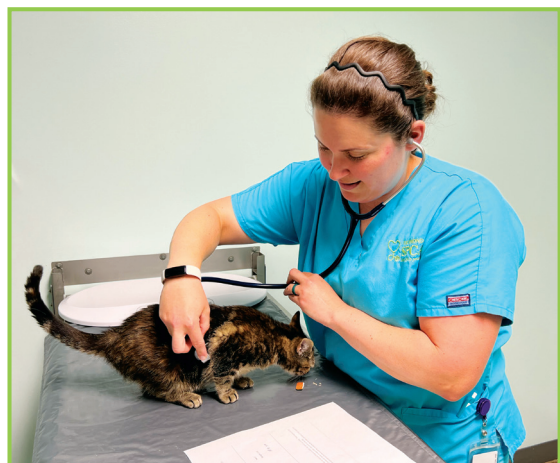


## MotMot: A tiny kitten with big plans

When MotMot, an adorable tabby kitten, was transferred into our care this spring, we estimated her age to be around 8 weeks. With a rare condition that was stunting her growth, tiny **MotMot had a big surprise in store for us.**

Upon her arrival, MotMot appeared healthy, so we prepared her for adoption just as we would any healthy kitten — we examined her, gave her age-appropriate vaccinations and spayed her. But not long after her spay surgery, our staff started observing some abnormalities in MotMot. She was not gaining weight at the normal rate, and she was drinking and using her litter box much more than is typical for a kitten her size.

Concerned, our shelter veterinary team began running tests and consulting with veterinary specialists. Soon, they discovered MotMot's pituitary gland, which produces hormones to regulate vital bodily functions, was not working as it should. Our Associate Veterinarian Dr. David Molinas diagnosed MotMot with congenital hypothyroidism and central diabetes insipidus and immediately began medical treatment.



*Shortly after her adoption, MotMot visited the Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital for a check up with Lead Veterinarian Dr. Courtney Bowers.*

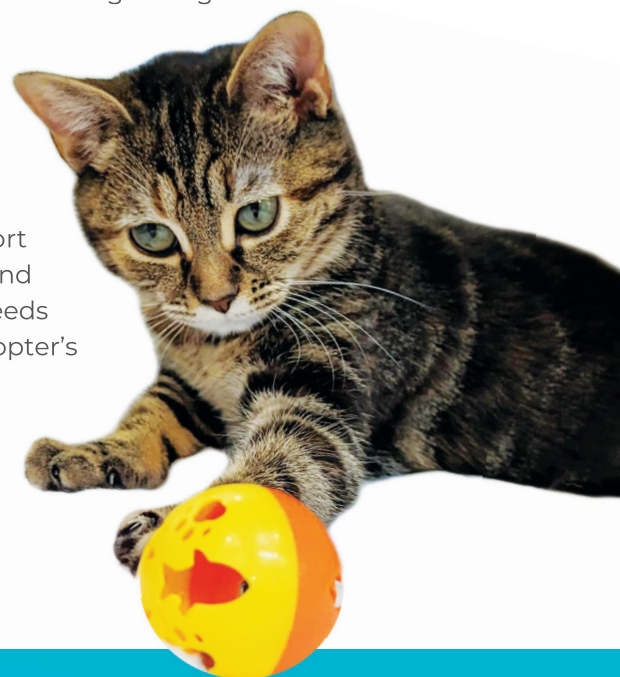
While she may never be a big cat, she will be a healthy one thanks to the generous support of friends like you.

We are happy to report that MotMot met a loving and experienced cat guardian who was eager to tend to MotMot's special needs and could not resist her charm. MotMot is thriving in her attentive adopter's home, where we know MotMot will be loved for her lifetime.

**Your gifts made it possible for us to save MotMot and place her in a wonderful home,** and your continued support will enable us to come to the rescue of the next dog or cat who needs us because every pet deserves the chance for a happy and healthy life.



*Small but fierce, MotMot and her incredibly sweet face won over her adopter.*



## Alumni Updates



**B. Bea 8** has discovered how much fun a good dig can be, and now has her very own sand box to play in.



Adopted in 2019, **Mokie** and his family are looking forward to another great summer of adventures.



According to her adopters, **Goose** is cuddly and playful and loves to give kisses.

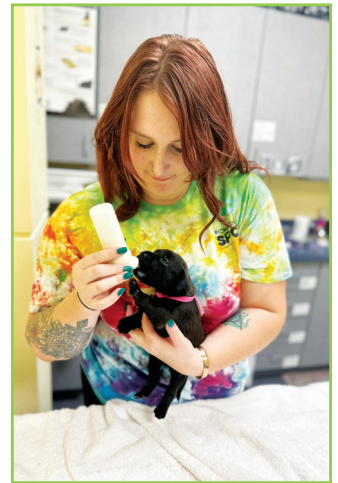


Please tag us in your Richmond SPCA alumni pet photos with [@richmondspca](https://www.instagram.com/richmondspca) or email us updates about your adopted pets at [info@richmondspca.org](mailto:info@richmondspca.org).

## Fostering frenzy

As of July 21, 742 pets have benefited from the individual attention and support given by 252 foster care volunteers this year. **We have welcomed 149 new fosters to this community, but we can still use more help!**

Did you know becoming a foster care volunteer is both easy and rewarding? Our basic video trainings take just a few minutes to complete, and you can sign up to care for adult pets, moms and kittens, bottle babies, pets recovering from medical procedures, and more. Fostering is a rewarding way to volunteer and shifts range from a few days to multiple weeks — flexible to fit your schedule!



*Acai is one of the 37 puppies who have received care from a foster this year.*



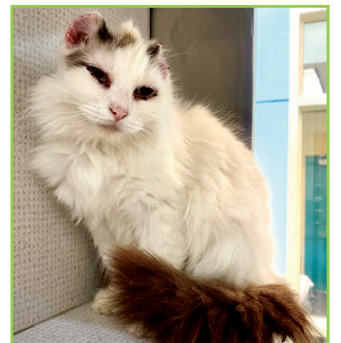
*Motherless kittens like Deb benefit from the individual attention fosters provide.*

Scan the QR code to visit our website and become a foster today!

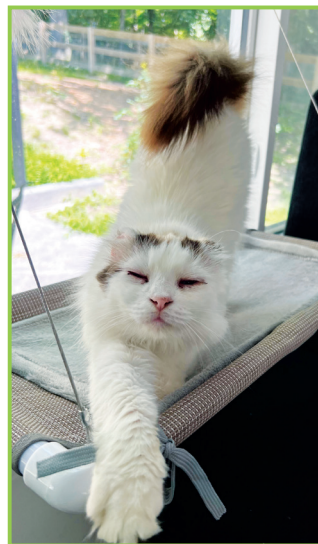


## Kitty glow-up

When we took Fluffosity into our care, lesions covered the outer edges of her ears. While a biopsy of her ears came back inconclusive on the presence of cancer, **our medical team performed a careful surgery to remove the affected parts of her ears while preserving her hearing.**



*Fluffosity was a little shy after her ear surgery, but our staff couldn't help but fawn over her gorgeous coat.*



*Now in a loving home, this fluffball is feeling better than ever.*

After being adopted by a loving family, she is now lavished in love and feeling fluffier and sassier than ever. Fluffosity isn't letting her smaller ears hold her back from letting her tail swish and her personality shine. Every day, the support of donors like you provides the resources our veterinary team needs to improve the lives of pets like Fluffosity. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



# This Blizzard warms many hearts

Blizzard's journey at the Richmond SPCA started last summer, when our staff found her timid and confused outside our building with a note from her prior owner stating they could no longer care for Blizzard due to financial hardship. **Our staff brought Blizzard into our care and reassured her that she was in a safe place.**

During our medical team's examination of Blizzard, they determined that the 13-year-old dog had arthritis in both of her hind knees, and they diagnosed her with Cushing's Disease. Blizzard also had dry skin which we could control with medication.

**While waiting for a lasting home, Blizzard quickly befriended staff and volunteers.** Her sweet and silly personality captured our hearts. Domonique Lawless, a volunteer who works specifically with dogs, made an extra effort to bond with Blizzard. "She was skittish at first, but every time I went to visit her, she would open up a little bit more," Domonique said. "She was a little sassy too; she liked to tell you when it was time for treats."



*Domonique built a special bond with Blizzard.*

After eight months in our care, Blizzard met Marie Harper. As a long-time beagle fan, Marie came to us looking for an older adult beagle who would make a good companion for her recently retired husband. After losing one of their dogs in October and the other shortly before visiting our shelter, the Harpers weren't intimidated by a pet who needed extra medical care — they just wanted a special pet to love.

After Marie described her ideal companion, our adoption counselors suggested she visit with Blizzard. Though Blizzard isn't a beagle, our adoption experts felt that her sweet personality could make her a good fit for the Harper family. According to Marie, it was the perfect recommendation. "Once we met her, we got hooked. We literally fell in love with her," Marie said.

Now called Barb, Blizzard has found her perfect fit with the Harper family. "We just really feel so fortunate to have met her and that she's with us," Marie said. "We're grateful to you all for taking care of her for us for so long. It feels like she's always been with us — she was waiting for us."

**At the Richmond SPCA, we work to meet every pet's physical and emotional needs.** Stories like Blizzard's unfold daily in our adoption center. While it may take a bit longer for some to find their perfect match, your support ensures every pet in our humane center receives the best care possible while they await adoption.

We know you share our feelings of fulfillment and gratification every time our adoption bell rings and a pet goes home. Your support makes happy endings like Blizzard's possible.



*Blizzard's sweet smile quickly captured our hearts.*



*Now in a happy home with a big yard, Blizzard's new daily routine includes a roll in the grass.*

# Summer of saving

The summer of 2023 has been an especially busy one for the Richmond SPCA and other humane organizations throughout the region. Several government agencies are reporting higher intakes of homeless animals this year compared to last, and in June, canine influenza began impacting local shelters, including our own, which contributed to kennel capacity challenges across the area. **With your generous help and support, the Richmond SPCA is tackling these issues, saving lives and delivering aid to animal guardians in need.**

## Sterilization saves lives

In our satellite Smoky's Spay & Neuter Clinic, **our team is increasing surgery capacity by about 20 percent.** This includes more low-cost surgeries for pets in government shelters and rescue groups prior to adoption and more free surgeries for free-roaming, unowned community cats brought to our clinic by volunteers engaged in Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) programs. We've also partnered with our good friends at Banfield to host high-volume community cat surgery days, during which their volunteer veterinarians spay and neuter as many as 100 community cats in a single day in our facilities.



## Providing support to partner agencies

The Richmond SPCA has been no-kill for more than 20 years, and we are dedicated to providing the resources necessary to help save the lives of all healthy and treatably sick and injured homeless animals across the region. **We partner with approximately 70 shelters and rescue groups in Virginia to transfer pets,** many of whom are ill or injured, from their care to ours, thereby helping other shelters create more space to save more lives.



## Home is where your pet is

When a pet already has a home, it is our goal, first and foremost, to do what we can to keep that pet with his family and out of a shelter. That's why we provide: a pet behavior helpline, a pet pantry, temporary boarding (to assist pet guardians who are temporarily unhoused), low-cost medical care in our full-service Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital, and rehoming services (so pets can go directly from one loving home to another). **Help us spread the word about these crucial services.**



## Delivering affordable vet care to those who need it the most

We're building capacity in our Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital to help more pets in need of low-cost services. We've hired another full-time veterinarian and part-time veterinarian; added more wellness, sick and surgery appointments; and updated qualifications for new clients to ensure more low-income guardians have access to these essential services for their companions. And coming soon: a sixth examination room.



## Fee-waived event boosts adoptions across region

In partnership with our friends at Ring Dog Rescue and with generous support from Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, we organized a fee-waived dog adoption event to increase adoptions and create more space in area shelters. Close to 20 shelters participated in the event, which occurred August 11 through 13, and dozens of lasting matches were made.



## Changes are afoot!

Under the guidance of our three-year strategic plan, the Richmond SPCA has identified many capital improvements — to include technology investments and renovations of our facilities — that will strengthen our ability to deliver our mission as we provide vital programs and services to pets and the people who love them. We are grateful to have the support of the Mary Morton Parson's Foundation, which has awarded us a \$335,000 challenge grant to assist with these important projects. We have about \$80,000 more to raise to secure the entire grant amount. **Your gift can help us meet the match by November when you select the "capital improvements" box on the enclosed envelope.**

# Richmond Brunch Weekend

## September 8 to 10

Celebrate your love of pets by coming out to the 6th Annual Richmond Brunch Weekend, with support from As Told Over Brunch. **Over 40 places across RVA have joined together to donate 15% of weekend proceeds** to support our lifesaving programs and services.

All weekend long, restaurants will be serving up specialty cocktails from Tito's Handmade Vodka, limited-edition brunch dishes and even special meals dedicated just to your dog! Scan the QR code to check out the full list of participating restaurants and pet-friendly patios. Restaurant reservations aren't required, but are highly encouraged. Plus, join us at our kickoff party at River City Roll on Friday, September 8 for all sorts of fun giveaways, including a weekend getaway to Charlottesville, exclusive swag, live music and more.



*We're looking forward to a weekend full of wags.*



Scan this code to visit the official Richmond Brunch Weekend website and make your brunch plans. Make sure you purchase official merch from our store so you and your pooch can arrive in style.

## THANK YOU FOR SAVING THEIR LIVES



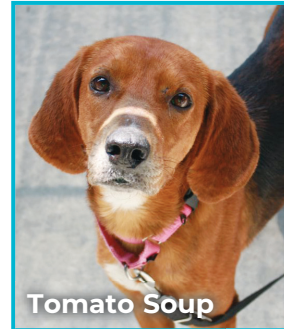
Kiwi



Sprocket



Saffron



Tomato Soup



Karma

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 or 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 annually. 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](http://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.

**Since we became no-kill in 2002, you've helped us adopt 68,011 pets into loving homes!**