

Peter Pan brings tail wags and pixie dust

The staff of Sunrise of Richmond, a local senior living community, know first-hand the joy that pets can bring into our lives. As a benefit for their residents, Sunrise of Richmond houses a group pet. After losing their last community dog to cancer, staff contacted us in hopes of finding a new companion. The Sunrise of Richmond staff were unsure if they'd be able to find another dog to suit their residents' needs, but our expert matchmaker, **Adoption Center Director Tommy DeSanto, was up for the challenge.**

In late January we transferred Peter Pan into our care from Louisa County Animal Shelter. The 5-year-old hound mix arrived healthy, and we made him available for adoption shortly after his arrival. Aside from a few excitable moments at the beginning of every day, Peter Pan prefers to live life at a slower pace. Peter Pan has a calm and gentle temperament, so Tommy invited a small group from Sunrise of Richmond to visit our humane center and meet him.



Peter Pan is rarely alone and enjoys attention from all of his friends.



Peter Pan's lovable and affectionate personality is on full display when he spends time with his friend, Jean.

Sunrise of Richmond Activities Coordinator Kadie Duggan knew Peter Pan was the right fit when he politely greeted each member of the group. "He just went down the row and said hello to everyone. He's so friendly," Kadie said.

Since his adoption, Peter Pan has made himself completely at home with the staff and residents. Peter Pan has free reign of his building, which is staffed and occupied around the clock, attends many activities with the Sunrise of Richmond residents and can typically be found in the loving arms of a community member. His only restrictions are during mealtimes for the humans, though he feels strongly that he should be included in those activities as well.

"We don't know what his life was like before he came here, but wherever he was, he was loved. And now we love him," said Jean, one of Peter Pan's biggest fans. Our staff are always thrilled to see our Richmond SPCA alumni find happy homes, and **Peter Pan's special adoption brings a unique joy to dozens of seniors. This heartwarming story is made possible by donors like you who support our daily lifesaving work.**

This golden girl really shines



Don't be fooled by Dandelion's gray fur — this distinguished lady still has plenty of pep in her step.

While undergoing this essential treatment, Dandelion stayed with superstar foster care provider Renai Bowers. After losing her dog Javi to cancer in 2021, Renai developed a soft spot for dogs with special needs, and she's been helping to keep homeless senior dogs comfortable and happy in her foster home for more than a year.

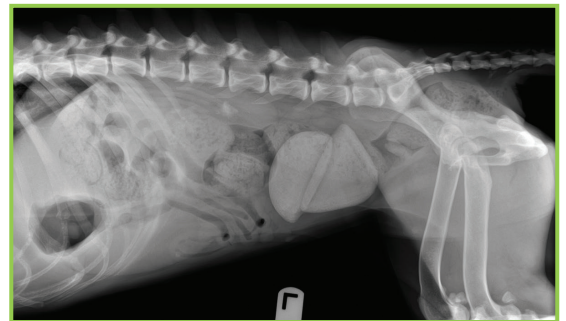
Dandelion spent nine months with Renai, during which Dandelion's personality really bloomed. "The first two weeks she was home, she was recovering from surgery. She was lethargic and quiet. But once she started to feel better, she was none of those things — she was busy and funny and this incredible little personality of hers started to come out," Renai said. When she's feeling well, Dandelion's sunny disposition infects everyone she meets.



When Dandelion entered our care, she was underweight, but her needs were well met by her foster care provider — including her need to look her best!

The Richmond SPCA transferred 13-year-old Dandelion from our friends at Portsmouth Humane Society in 2023. Suffering from a smattering of health conditions, **Dandelion was underweight and needing medical attention**, which our veterinary services team was eager to provide her. Dandelion arrived with several masses, dislocating kneecaps, arthritis in both knees and tennis-ball-sized bladder stones that would require surgical removal. This golden girl had been through a lot, and we were ready to give her the healthy future she so deserved.

Our dedicated medical staff got to work examining Dandelion's masses (all thankfully non-cancerous), treating her arthritis with medication, removing the painful bladder stones, and treating a serious bladder wall infection and resulting incontinence with multiple rounds of antibiotics.



The tennis-ball-sized stones caused by Dandelion's bladder infection were surgically removed by our veterinary team.

But caring for Dandelion wasn't always a walk in the park. Renai recalls a time when Dandelion wore diapers and required hourly potty breaks as she received treatment for her infection. While Dandelion's bladder function will never be fully normal, the love, care and medical rehabilitation she received enables her to live life comfortably and to the fullest.

In January 2024, Dandelion was finally ready for adoption and soon thereafter met her match with Linda Borgo, a retired nurse who, like Renai, has a soft spot for pets needing extra attention — Linda and Dandelion are now inseparable. "I'm home all day. When I go out, I take her with me. She and I have long conversations. We talk about life and how the day is going. She's a really adaptable, easygoing, live-in-the-moment type of dog," Linda said. "Her real personality has come out. She's turned into a clown. She does expect people to cater to her every wish, but I've got nothing else to do. My hobby is Dandelion!"



Renai and Linda still keep in touch. "To know that the two of them have each other and that they're completely thriving together, makes the days that I miss her completely worth it," Renai said.

We couldn't agree more, and our enormous thanks go to foster providers like Renai who help make adoption successes like this one possible. We are also grateful for our staff and you — our generous friends and supporters — for being there for pets when they need us the most.



We restored Dandelion's health after months of treatment and loving care from our staff and volunteers.



Renai (left) came to wish Dandelion well on the day of her adoption to Linda (right).

You've got to be kitten me

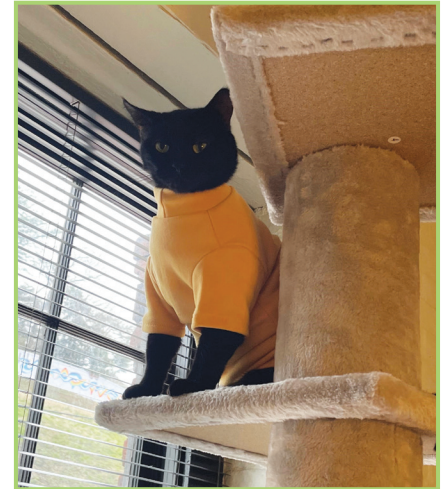
Hundreds of kittens are en route to our humane center this spring and we need your help to give them the best possible start to life. While some kittens will arrive with their moms, who simply need a cozy place to grow, many will arrive as orphaned infants, requiring round-the-clock care.

Join our team of dedicated foster care providers for a rewarding and lifechanging experience. Register and complete online foster care training by scanning the blue QR code, and watch the 24th Annual Fur Ball video about kitten season by scanning the green QR code. Together, we can come to the rescue of these tiny companions.



Cricket was one of the first bottle babies to arrive in our humane center this year.

Alumni Updates



After his feature in our last Pet Post newsletter, our favorite legume, **Lima Beans**, was adopted in January. We're thrilled he's living in a happy home, and that he hasn't lost his sense of fashion!



Adopted in May 2022, **Irving** is a loving companion to Elizabeth King and Garrett Jones. Irving has returned to his alma mater as the **2023-2024 Richmond SPCA mascot** — catch him on Instagram, @richmondspcamascot, and at upcoming 2024 events.



Please tag us in your Richmond SPCA alumni pet photos with @richmondspca or email us updates about your adopted pets at info@richmondspca.org.

Catch us in our community

Looking for new and fun ways to get out and about in RVA? Join us at one of our upcoming community events and support our lifesaving work. **Check out our online calendar, follow us on social media or scan the QR code** to sign up for our eNews list to see what we're up to!



Subaru Loves Pets at Riverrock: May 18 and 19

Our team will be onsite with Richmond SPCA swag, the dog kissing booth, free pup cups, information on pet adoption and more!

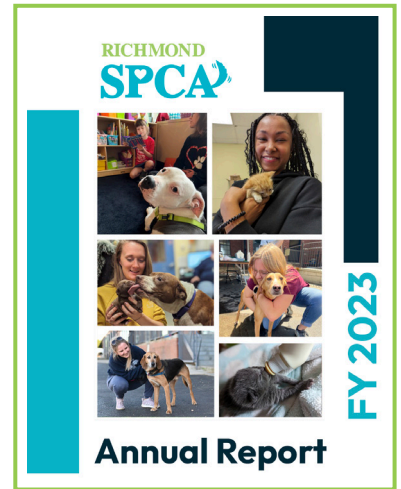


Fidos after 5: Returning May 23

Twice a month at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, dogs are invited to join their guardians for a stroll through the gardens while enjoying beautiful flowers, food, beverages, live music and shopping.

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

Last year donors like you helped us come to the aid of more than **4,000 homeless pets**, including 3,838 who were sick, injured or neonatal, and we delivered help and hope to the people who love them. We are proud to share with you our fiscal year 2023 outcomes for shelter pets, community cats, hospital and clinic patients, training clients and more!



Scan the QR code to view the full report and learn about the positive impact you have helped us make in our community. **Thank you for being our partner in lifesaving.**



THANK YOU FOR SAVING THEIR LIVES.



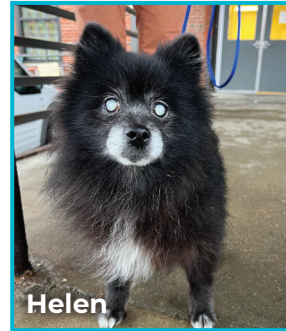
Susie



Dishwalla



Casino



Helen



Butter Pecan

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 9,000 pet patients annually and spay or neuter more than 3,000 animals in our Smoky's Spay & Neuter Clinic. 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.

Since we became no-kill in 2002, you've helped us adopt 71,833 pets into loving homes!