

Glasgow Gazette

ANNUAL PUBLICATION FOR THE ELLEN GLASGOW LEGACY SOCIETY OF THE RICHMOND SPCA

A PARTY WITH PURPOSE: A JOYFUL LEGACY

Suzanne Cardwell has always believed that if you want a party, you should plan one. That motto has carried her through life — and now, it's shaping her legacy.

Recently, Suzanne finalized her estate plans, and among the meaningful gifts she arranged was one that reflects her vibrant spirit and deep love for animals and human connection; a special bequest to the Richmond SPCA, inspired by one unforgettable night at our Fur Ball in 2024.

That night, surrounded by friends and the joyful energy of fellow animal lovers, Suzanne paused to take it all in. “Everyone was so happy,” she recalls. “There was so much love in the room — not just for the animals, but for each other. I thought, this is what life is about.”

In that happy moment, a unique idea was born.

Upon her passing, Suzanne has arranged for her executor to purchase a table at the Fur Ball in her honor. That table will be filled with the people she loves most — her friends and family — gathered not in mourning, but in celebration. She wants them to come together, raise a glass, and feel her spirit in the sparkle of the event and the mission it supports, saving the lives of sick, injured and neonatal homeless pets.

But Suzanne didn't stop there. Her bequest includes up to \$100,000 for her executor to bid on a dream trip adventure from the Fur Ball's live auction. Her wish? That her loved ones “win big” and take the trip together, continuing the celebration and carrying her memory with them wherever they go. “It's about creating an experience filled with laughter, love, generosity and connection — just like the Fur Ball,” she says. “And then they will have an opportunity to travel together and create new memories, all while supporting a great cause.”

At home, Suzanne and her partner are surrounded by



Suzanne, her fiancée Jennifer, and friends celebrate at the Fur Ball. This annual gala supports the Richmond SPCA's Cinderella Fund, which underwrites the cost of medical care for sick, injured and neonatal homeless pets.

the quiet strength of rescued companions — Luna, a gentle Mastiff, and two cats, Nala and Caj. Her life is grounded in connection and compassion.

“It's remarkable,” she says, “how effortlessly animals offer unconditional love — something we as humans often struggle to give. They offer complete acceptance and loyalty without conditions, free of judgment. There's a life lesson in that for all of us.”

It's that same spirit Suzanne works to spread in the world — and in the legacy she's building.

In addition to her Fur Ball gift, Suzanne's estate will fund the Cardwell Family Foundation, a philanthropic initiative dedicated to supporting programs for both children and animals. It's a testament to her lifelong belief in the power of compassion, connection and drive to make a difference.

We are deeply honored to be part of Suzanne's vision, a legacy that reflects joy, generosity and the unbreakable bond between people and their pets. Through her inspiring gift, Suzanne reminds us that even in death, we can choose to celebrate life — and to keep the party going.



BARB'S RUN:

A LEGACY OF LOVE *IN MOTION*

Barbara Brunckhorst believed in caring for the world around her — whether it was through her love of animals or her passion for protecting the environment. A longtime supporter of the Richmond SPCA, Barbara passed away in 2020, but her legacy lives on in a joyful, tail-wagging tribute that will take shape on our campus.

Thanks to a generous gift from the **Barbara Brunckhorst Foundation**, our new outdoor dog recreation area will be named in her honor. Fittingly, it will be called **Barb's Run** — a place where shelter dogs can stretch their legs, chase balls and simply be dogs.

For years, our indoor Smoky's Track & Training Center has been a vital hub of activity, hosting hundreds of training classes. It provides a welcome break from the kennels for both dogs awaiting adoption and our devoted community of class participants. On stormy days or during the hot summer heat, the track is an invaluable resource. But when it comes to outdoor play, our options have been limited.

While our volunteers go above and beyond—taking dogs on field trips to local parks or even to their own fenced-in yards — those outings are weather-dependent and require time and transportation. What we've been missing is a safe, accessible and flexible outdoor space right here on our grounds.

That's where the idea for Barb's Run was born.

Set to break ground in June, Barb's Run will transform part of our back parking lot into a fenced-in play area for our shelter dogs. Designed with both dogs and people in mind, the space will include

shaded areas for hot days, dog-friendly astroturf for soft landings, and adjustable fencing that allows us to create small or large playgroups — or offer quiet solo time for dogs who need it most.

Whether it's a dog bursting with zoomies or a shy pup gaining confidence, Barb's Run will be a haven of comfort and joy. It will also serve as a beautiful venue for meet-and-greets between shelter dogs and potential adopters, helping pave the way to forever homes.

A lead gift from the Barbara Brunckhorst Foundation made this much-needed project possible, and we are so honored to carry her name forward in such a meaningful way. We think Barbara would be deeply pleased to see her legacy creating a space filled with happiness, healing and new beginnings for pets in need.

Construction is expected to be completed by the fall, and we're excited to see the difference Barb's Run will make for the thousands of dogs who will pass through its gates in the years ahead.

We are also grateful to other generous supporters of this project, including **an anonymous foundation, The London Company, The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation,** and **The Virginia Sargeant Reynolds Foundation.**

If you would like to explore a naming opportunity in honor of someone you love — whether person or pet — we would be delighted to speak with you. Your legacy, like Barbara's, can create a lasting impact for animals in need. Contact Carol Anne Baker Lajoie, chief advancement officer, at clajoie@richmondspca.org or 804-521-1321.

DID YOU KNOW?



You can leave a legacy without changing your will. Naming the Richmond SPCA as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy is one of the easiest ways to make a lasting impact — no attorney required.



Including a charitable bequest in your estate plan may reduce the taxable portion of your estate, potentially lowering the tax burden for your heirs.



Even a small percentage of your estate can make a meaningful difference to the causes you care about most.



The Richmond SPCA has a program to help guardians should they predecease their pets. Visit our website and search for “Beauregard’s Program.”

HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY



INCLUDE THE RICHMOND SPCA IN YOUR WILL

It's as simple as adding a sentence. “I give [dollar amount/percentage/residue] to the Richmond SPCA, a nonprofit organization located at 2519 Hermitage Road, Richmond VA Tax ID 54-0506328 for its general use and purpose.”



MAKE A LASTING GIFT WHILE RETAINING INCOME

Consider a charitable remainder trust (CRT). A CRT allows you to support our mission and receive income during your lifetime. The trust should be established by an attorney with experience in estate and tax planning.



UPDATE A BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

Contact your retirement plan administrator or life insurance provider. With a simple form, you can designate the Richmond SPCA as a full or partial beneficiary.



GET STARTED

Contact your financial advisor or attorney — or reach out to Carol Anne Baker Lajoie, chief advancement officer, at clajoie@richmondspca.org. We are happy to answer questions.



richmondspca.org

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Compassion Unleashed



*Pets like **Reese** benefit from
the lifesaving generosity of
legacy donors every day.*

Read more inside!

