

# THE PET POST

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## Seeing the World Anew

Sheath entered our care in August 2025, suffering from a rare and painful condition that affected both of her eyes. She was quickly diagnosed with eyelid agenesis, meaning the upper parts of her eyelids never fully developed. Without those protective lids, Sheath's eyes were left constantly irritated and painful, vulnerable to infection, and at risk of losing sight.

Associate veterinarian Dr. David Molinas has performed numerous delicate surgeries to correct eyelid agenesis throughout his career. He determined early on that Sheath's right eye was no longer functional due to severe damage, reaching a stage called phthisis bulbi. An enucleation surgery was performed to remove the damaged eye and relieve Sheath's pain.

Her left eye, thankfully, still had hope to heal with the right treatment. Our veterinary team performed a complex procedure, requiring a series of delicate surgeries that used tissue from her lower eyelid to rebuild the missing upper lid. Each operation required weeks of healing, with the attention of our incredible Animal Care team, before Dr. Molinas could move on to the next. This careful, multistage process took nearly three months, but Sheath's left eye was saved along with her remaining sight.

Sheath's recovery is ongoing, but her story is a huge success made possible by compassionate supporters dedicated to the well-being of the pets in our care. When you contribute to the Cinderella Fund, you make lifesaving medical treatment and second chances possible for vulnerable pets who have nowhere else to turn.



Dr. Molinas with Sheath

**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, volunteers, donors and adopters to make their happily ever afters possible.**



Richmond SPCA's 24th Annual Dog Jog, 5K and Block Party presented by Holiday Barn Pet Resorts is on Saturday, March 21st.

Scan the QR code to access early bird registration!



Last fiscal year, we raised over \$1 million for the Cinderella Fund, providing pre-adoption medical care for 3,938 animals. Of those pets, 3,605 required additional treatment beyond standard care, including:



Dental Disease  
132 cases treated



Ear/Eye Infections  
500 cases treated



Respiratory Conditions  
612 cases treated



Non-Routine Surgeries  
309 cases treated

## Goose's Tail of Courage

Goose arrived at our shelter in January 2025 and immediately captured the heart of every staff member and volunteer he encountered. The veterinary team soon noticed a swelling on his right front leg that raised concern and quickly led to diagnostic testing. Dr. David Molinas confirmed Goose had a hemangiosarcoma, a malignant tumor of the blood vessels. This type of tumor becomes more aggressive depending on where it develops. Unfortunately for Goose, the prognosis was difficult; his tumor was located beneath the skin, a form known to behave aggressively.



Trainer Aaron with Goose

Our team pursued every option to give Goose his best chance for a healthy future. He underwent two surgical procedures to achieve clean margins from tumor removal and comprehensive staging to assess the extent of the disease, including chest radiographs and abdominal ultrasound. Fortunately, there was no evidence of metastasis that would result in the spread of cancer to other parts of Goose's body. He began a six-cycle course of chemotherapy administered every three weeks. Throughout treatment, he showed incredible resilience, tolerated the protocol beautifully, and kept his tail wagging every step of the way.



Goose continues to persevere under ongoing monitoring and a lot of love and support from the Richmond SPCA staff. His progress is a testament to his resilience and a commitment to providing the best possible medical care to every homeless pet in need.

Goose's extensive treatment, including surgery, diagnostic imaging, chemotherapy, and continued monitoring, was all made possible by the Cinderella Fund. This lifesaving fund ensures that financial constraints never stand in the way of treatment for pets like Goose and your support sustains this essential work. Together we can continue providing high-quality veterinary care, hope, and healing for the most vulnerable animals in our community.



# Cheesin' Extra Hard Over Jack

In May 2025, the Richmond SPCA welcomed a 6-day-old puppy named Feta, along with his siblings and their mom. Within days, Feta faced a life-threatening battle with parvovirus, a highly contagious and often deadly illness for puppies that have not yet received vaccines.

Our veterinary team placed him in intensive medical care, where he received intravenous fluids, medications, and round-the-clock monitoring to stabilize his fragile body.

As Feta fought to recover from parvo, he developed an unexpected but severe necrotic abdominal wound, a life-threatening condition, and the second critical hurdle in his young life. With careful wound management, pain control, and diligent nursing, he slowly regained his strength.

Feta then transitioned into foster care, where he continued to heal and flourish outside the shelter environment. His foster caregiver not only helped him regain his health but ultimately gave him a permanent home and a new name, Jack.

Jack is a happy, healthy, and deeply loved companion with his whole life ahead of him. He still carries a small scar on his abdomen, a lasting reminder of his resilience and the lifesaving work that made his recovery possible.

Jack's story reflects the depth of care provided by our veterinary and foster teams, and the profound impact of the Cinderella Fund, which covers extraordinary medical expenses for animals facing illness or injury. By donating to the Cinderella Fund, you help give vulnerable pets like Jack the happy ending they deserve. Last year alone, the Richmond SPCA encountered 49 cases of parvo, nearly double the prior year and fatal if left untreated.

Jack's siblings and mom also found families of their own, a testament to our community and your willingness to open your heart to pets in need.

## Share the Love!

We're honored to share that the Richmond SPCA has been chosen as Moore Subaru's Hometown Charity for the Subaru Share the Love® Event! From November 20, 2025, through January 2, 2026, Subaru will donate \$250 for every new vehicle sold or leased to the purchaser's choice of four national charities — each guaranteed a minimum of \$250,000. In addition, Moore Subaru will make a separate donation of up to \$50 for every new vehicle sold or leased, and together with Subaru, will contribute \$5 for every routine service visit, to benefit their Hometown Charity — the Richmond SPCA.

When you buy or lease from Moore Subaru — or bring your car in for service — you help bring lifesaving care to pets right here in our community.



Director of Communications Dori McGuire with Frida

# ALUMNI UPDATES



Jackie, adopted in 2025



Georgie, adopted in 2024



Bora Bora, adopted in 2025



Knox, adopted in 2025



Bertha, adopted in 2025



Gunther, adopted in 2025



The Richmond SPCA, founded in 1891, is central Virginia's oldest full-service humane society. Each year we serve more than 18,000 pets across the community in our shelter, veterinary hospital, spay and neuter clinic, training programs and pet retention services. Since becoming no-kill in 2002, the Richmond SPCA has found loving adoptive homes for more than 76,000 dogs and cats. We are an independent nonprofit and 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.

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.