

THE PET POST

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Home is Worth the Wait

Every veterinarian faces the challenge of diagnosing patients who cannot talk or explain their own symptoms. In private practice, patients are accompanied by guardians who can describe their pets' symptoms and history, but in shelter medicine, each patient is a diagnostic mystery.

Such was the case with 6-month-old Ozzie, whom we transferred into our care from another shelter last year. The puppy was suffering from chronic intestinal issues and unable to gain or maintain weight. The skin on his ears and top of his nose also began to flake and became infected.

Eager to get to the bottom of and resolve Ozzie's medical issues and with the support of our Cinderella Fund, Associate Veterinarian Dr. David Molinas used a variety of diagnostic tools: radiographs, ultrasound, exploratory surgery, blood tests, fecal exams, intestinal biopsies and more. Throughout all the testing, Ozzie enjoyed extended stays in foster care.

Ultimately, Dr. Molinas diagnosed sweet Ozzie with a chronic colon issue and zinc deficiency, both of which are now managed with a special diet and supplements. The little guy's nose and ears also cleared up.

On April 25, a full year after Ozzie first entered our care, Dr. Molinas was able to clear the pup for adoption, writing, "He is not perfect, and I do not know if perfect is possible for him, but he is in much better condition than when he came, and he is a good boy ready to find a committed owner."

Three days later, Ozzie found that commitment from Lily and Jacob. A month after joining their family, Ozzie had gained another 2 pounds. He's enjoying regular outings and making friends everywhere he goes. He's especially close to the cats with whom he shares a home and forms a cuddle puddle on the couch.

Ozzie is continuing his medications and has had a post-adoption visit to our Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital. Though he's likely to always experience flair ups related to his condition, his adopters are happy to see the progress he has made, fully understanding the lengthy medical journey and dedicated team at the Richmond SPCA that got him here. Lily says, "he is perfect to us no matter what."

Your generosity can go twice as far to help vulnerable pets like Ozzie. Make a gift of \$50 or more by September 30 to have it matched by friends of animals Dave and Christy Cottrell!



LAELYNN:

A Kitten Season Surprise

In the heart of our Smoky's Spay & Neuter Clinic, on a typical Thursday morning, our veterinary services team got an unexpected surprise.

As part of our trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) efforts, a community cat — unsocialized and accustomed to outdoor life — was awaiting sedation for a routine spay surgery when she suddenly went into labor. Within minutes, she gave birth to a single kitten. That kitten, eyes still closed and weighing just a few ounces, was named Laelynn.

Though the mother cat was cared for by a compassionate colony caregiver, she wasn't a candidate to raise a kitten indoors. She was fearful of human contact and, after recovering from surgery, returned to her colony — healthier and no longer at risk of another pregnancy. But Laelynn stayed with us and was placed in foster care with one of our specially-trained volunteers, who bottle-fed the tiny kitten around the clock and kept him warm and safe.

Neonatal kittens like Laelynn are especially vulnerable. Without a mother or foster caregiver providing constant care, their odds of survival are heartbreakingly slim. But thanks to our incredible foster



Laelynn, now Pismo, relaxing at home.

volunteers — and the generosity of donors who make their work possible — Laelynn thrived.

He grew stronger each day, steadily reaching his weight milestones. He received his vaccines, was lovingly socialized, and eventually became big enough for his own sterilization surgery — this time at our humane center. Not long after, he was adopted into a forever home, where he continues to grow and flourish.

Each year we care for more than 1,000 kittens, many of them too young to survive without 24-hour support. With your help and generosity, these vulnerable pets are given every chance at a happy future. And when they reach 8 weeks of age, we spay and neuter them, assuring they don't produce more homeless kittens. Thank you for making this work possible.



**Dine Out.
Do Good.
Save Lives.**



Join us September 6-7 when the **Pendleton Law Team** presents Pups, Plates and Pours – where great food, craft beer and drinks, and your beloved pets come together for tail-wagging fun all weekend!

Scan the QR code to check out the growing list of participating locations, purchase raffle tickets and start planning your weekend.





LESSONS FOR A LEGACY

Our Glasgow Gazette shines a light on the extraordinary compassion of those who include the Richmond SPCA in their estate plans. View the latest issue online to read how legacy gifts are creating a lasting impact for animals in need — today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

READ MORE:

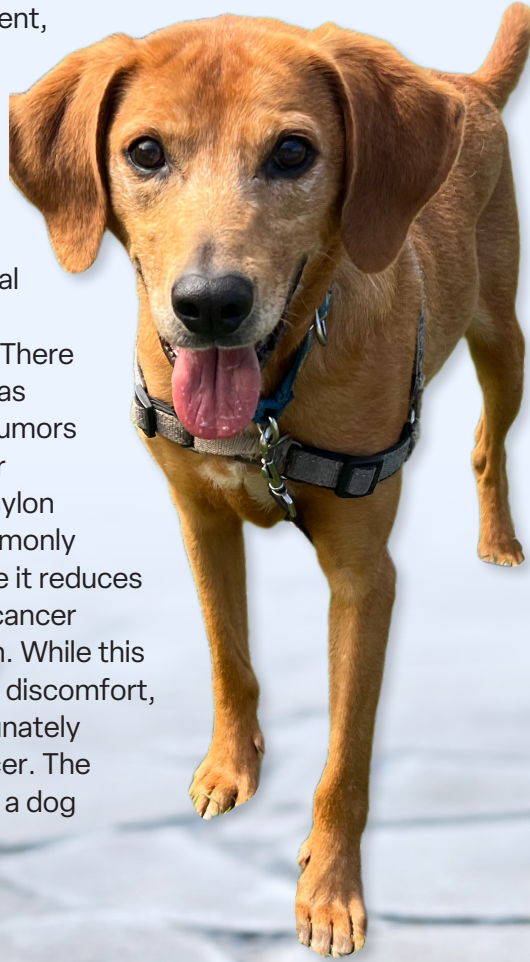


Waylon's Way Home

We transferred Waylon, a sweet 5-year-old pup, to the Richmond SPCA from Caroline County Animal Shelter, knowing he needed veterinary care and a second chance.

At first, we focused on what seemed most urgent: treating his heartworms and healing an abscess. But during treatment, a routine scan revealed something more serious — two large, nonremovable bladder tumors.

Waylon likely has Transitional Cell Carcinoma (TCC), an aggressive form of cancer. There is no evidence the cancer has spread, but the malignant tumors could continue to grow. Our veterinary team started Waylon on a medication that's commonly prescribed for TCC because it reduces inflammation and has anti-cancer properties that slow growth. While this medication eases Waylon's discomfort, our veterinary team unfortunately cannot cure Waylon's cancer. The average life expectancy for a dog with TCC is just 6 months.



Despite the diagnosis, Waylon remains sweet, curious, and full of joy. Our former adoption counselor Lauren volunteered to foster Waylon during his initial treatment. According to Lauren, Waylon "didn't know how to be a dog" at first and didn't understand that he was allowed to be comfortable on the furniture. It did not take long for Waylon to make himself at home in foster care.

Waylon was adopted to a lasting home soon after his time in foster care ended.

Today, Waylon is living out his remaining days with his adopter in comfort and surrounded by love. He's not just surviving — he's flourishing.

Your support makes stories like Waylon's possible. Every gift helps us provide precious pets, even those facing the toughest diagnoses, with the chance at a loving home. Please consider donating today, so we can keep rescuing pets like Waylon who deserve hope and happiness.





COMPASSION IN ACTION

The Richmond SPCA's mission to provide education and resources to achieve and sustain a no-kill community is an around-the-clock endeavor! We couldn't do it without the support of donors, volunteers, students and adopters like you who make our lifesaving work possible. Here is a snapshot of some of the work your time, talent and donations have made possible from **October 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025**.

Animals adopted

2,716



Shelter animals treated for illness or injury

2,460



Shelter animals trained

1,166



PET SUPPORT SERVICES

291

trips to our 65+ transfer partners, including local shelters in Metro Richmond



2,891

total intake



103,619

pounds of food distributed through our Pet Pantry



FOSTER CARE

811

pets placed in foster care

Adult pets

329

Juveniles

467 kittens

15 puppies



SUSAN M. MARKEL VETERINARY HOSPITAL

6,640

patients helped



\$72,248

fees waived

9,160

appointments seen



HUMANE EDUCATION

4,227

children reached



1,938

adults reached



65

group tours given



26

camps hosted

SMOKY'S SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC

SHELTER/RESCUE PETS

1,613 surgeries

COMMUNITY CATS

1,370 surgeries

BEHAVIOR & TRAINING

479

Households assisted by our Behavior Helpline

1,241

Classes taught

2,067

Hours of training at School for Dogs



To learn more about the daily activity at our Robins-Starr Humane Center, Smoky's Training Center, Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital, and Smoky's Spay & Neuter Clinic, use the QR code to read our Fiscal Year 2024 Impact Report.

READ MORE
HERE:

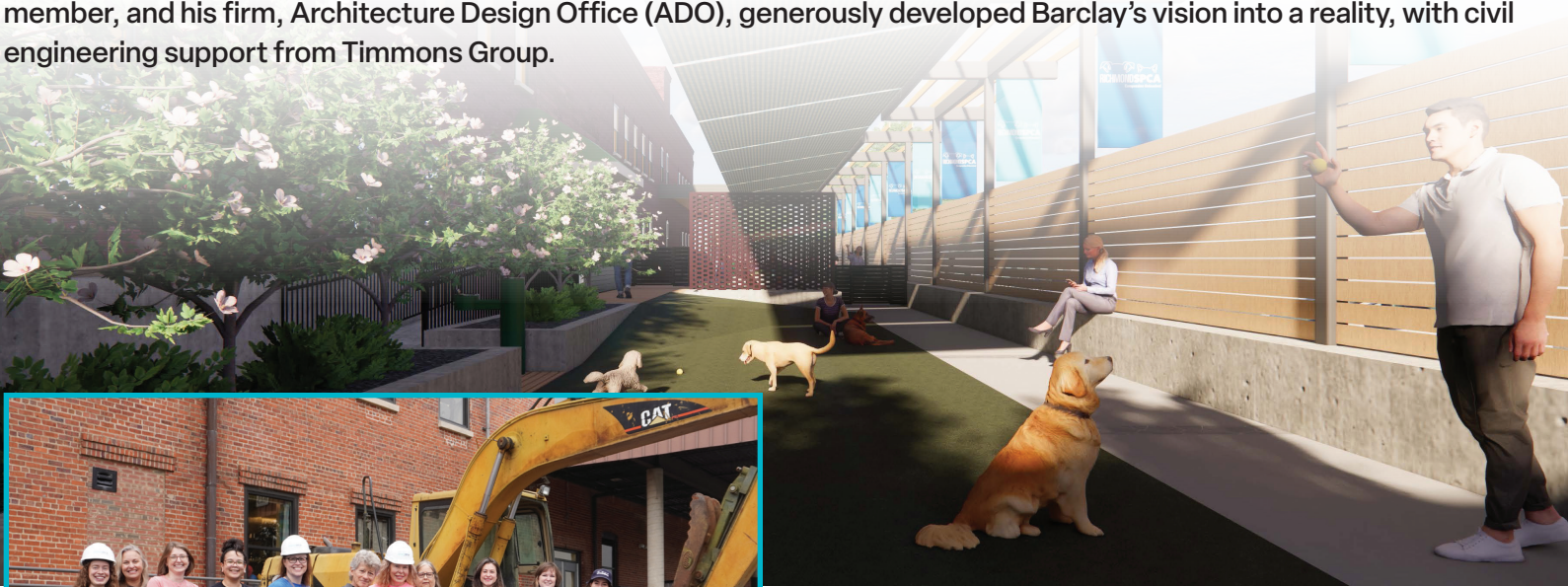


COMING SOON...

Outdoor play options have been limited for the dogs awaiting adoption at our humane center. Volunteers go above and beyond to provide additional opportunities for them, such as field trips to local parks or even their own fenced-in yards, but 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. We broke ground in June on this exciting, modular space that will facilitate meet-and-greets, play groups, romp sessions, and countless zoomies. Construction should wrap up in October. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to be part of this important project on our campus.

The design concept for Barb's Run originated with Barclay Finck, former Richmond SPCA facilities manager and a recent architecture graduate from the University of Maine at Augusta. Todd Dykshorn, a Richmond SPCA Board member, and his firm, Architecture Design Office (ADO), generously developed Barclay's vision into a reality, with civil engineering support from Timmons Group.



Richmond SPCA staff join Emily and Todd Stravitz for groundbreaking on Barb's Run. The lead gift for the project came from the Barbara Brunckhorst Foundation and is named in honor of Todd's mother, Barbara Brunckhorst. Emily and Todd are dedicated adopters, and Emily is a volunteer with our dog-focused Green Team.

ALUMNI UPDATES

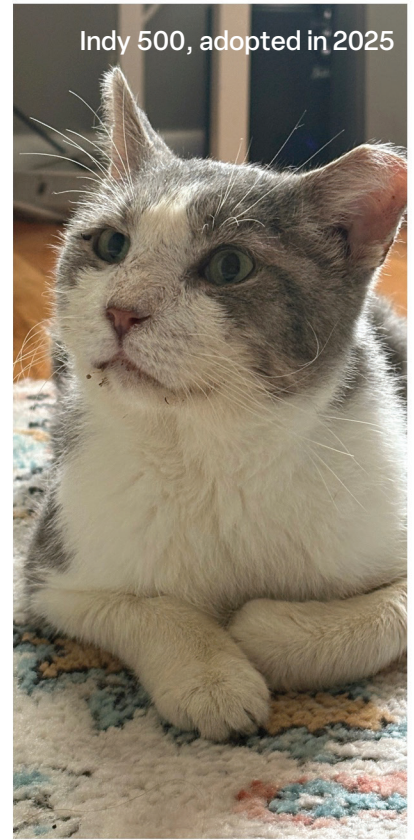
Sinai, adopted in 2025



Spirit, adopted in 2023



Indy 500, adopted in 2025



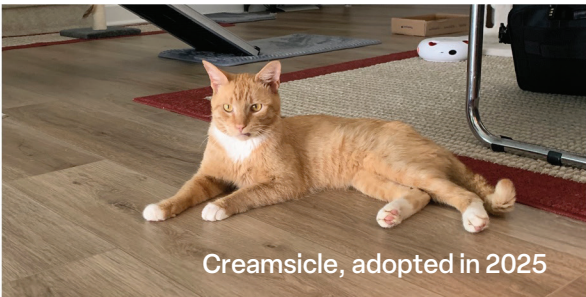
Hazel, adopted in 2022



Sir Egg, adopted in 2025



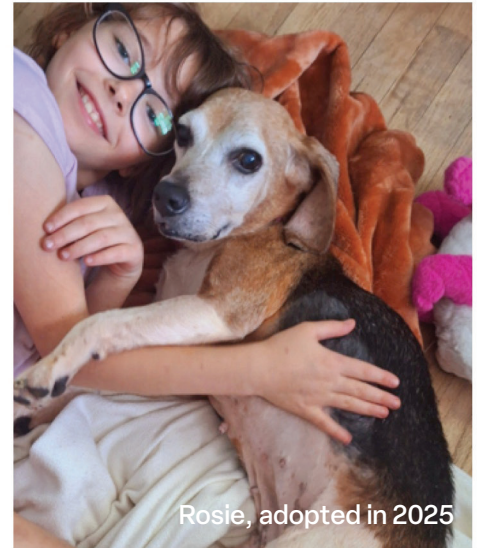
Creamsicle, adopted in 2025



BuddhaBear, adopted in 2021



Rosie, 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.