

2013 Annual Update for Volunteers, Donors & Friends

OUR MISSION

The SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County has three main objectives:

To reduce pet overpopulation through our progressive spay/neuter program;

To prevent animal cruelty, neglect, and suffering through our investigations, legal action, and an active dog and cat adoption program; and

To promote animal-friendly public policy through humane education.



Help make this mission a reality by donating online at pgspca.org

The Year in Review

As we do every year, in 2013 we've worked hard on behalf of the county's animals. Though we don't operate a central shelter facility, you can see us out in the community every week at our adoption events (in local pet stores), and at our Forestville clinic where we hold monthly vaccination clinics and quarterly spay/neuter events. We also exhibit at community events such as BowieFest, the Greenbelt Pet Expo, the Barkin' Bash, the Alternative Gift Exchange, and other such venues that let us spread the word about our mission and programs.

And our cruelty program is at work 24/7: our telephone hotline is always available and we follow up on every call, often going out into the field to investigate cases and document evidence that's later turned over to county officials for appropriate action, including prosecution. There's a lot that we do in the course of every day.

But there also have been a few special things this year. We funded a large outdoor exercise area for the county's municipal animal shelter, so the dogs would have room to exercise, train, and socialize. Not to leave out the kitties, we also purchased a more sanitary stainless steel cage system for the shelter's cats, to help prevent the spread of disease. We've also donated Kongs, plastic swimming pools, and other supplies to the shelter. And your donations make it all possible.

But perhaps the biggest animal-friendly news of 2013 was what the ASPCA called "One of the biggest wins ever for dogs and cats in a state legislative body!" The MD State legislature passed a law establishing a statewide Spay/Neuter Fund, and we helped!

Our president Tamela Terry served on the state's spay/neuter task force, whose research and final report recommended the legislation and the resulting fund. We're excited to see that program take shape in 2014, and for all the other advancements that will be made on behalf of the animals in the coming year. We could not do it without you, so thank you so much for your support!

Addressing Animal Cruelty

Animal cruelty is never acceptable, no matter what the species, so cruelty and neglect investigations are a key component of the mission of the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County. Our cruelty investigator handles calls from the public and collaborates with county animal control officers to respond to and investigate a wide variety of cruelty-related cases.

In 2013 our cruelty investigator handled some

2000 calls involving possible neglect or cruelty, injured animals, stray cats, animal attacks, and more.



Finding FURever Homes

As many as half of the 15,000 dogs and cats entering the Prince George's County animal shelter are euthanized every year, so we work hard to rescue and rehome as many as we can. Our volunteer foster families take them into their homes; work on housebreaking and basic commands; provide food, toys, bedding, exercise, and a safe environment; manage any medical treatments; and transport them to and from veterinary appointments, adoption shows, TV appearances, and special events. Most importantly, our foster volunteers give these animals love and develop a keen understanding of each pet's personality and needs, which helps us make the best match between adopter and pet.

Although our emphasis is on rescuing healthy and highly adoptable animals, we occasionally come across a case that tugs at our heart strings involving animals we just can't turn away. A recent example was Dasher, whose pelvis was broken in a car accident, requiring expensive surgery and lengthy follow-up physical therapy. Despite all he's been through, this brave little boy is now happy and enjoying life in his new home!

And then there was Griffin. After his foster guardian noticed blood in his urine, a veterinarian discovered the poor little dog required surgery for bladder stones and a testicular tumor. Fortunately, Griffin recovered completely and was later adopted.

We made some great matches in 2013, placing nearly 50 animals, and we couldn't be happier. But our involvement with these animals doesn't necessarily end with their adoptions. By taking them into our program, we make a lifelong commitment to them. Take Kobie, for example. When this senior cocker spaniel's owner died, Kobie returned to our care. Given his age, finding the right match took awhile. But eventually--earlier this year--Kobie found a new home...where he'll be adored the rest of his life.



If you'd like to foster a dog or cat, email pgspcavol@gmail.com.



Adoption Album 2013: Some of Our Happy Endings



Algernon



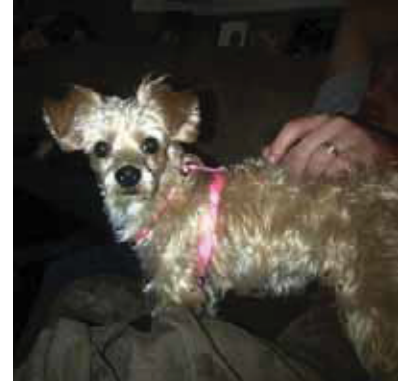
Almond Joy



Amelia



Angus



Betty



Bid Ed



Bradley



Bruno



Charity



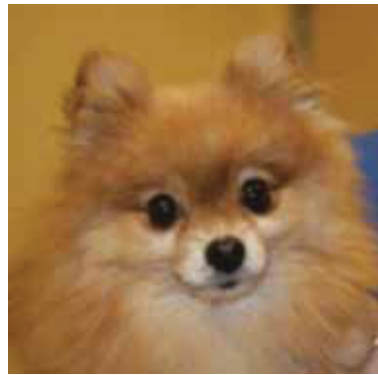
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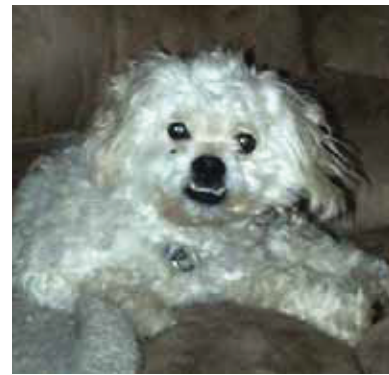
Chip



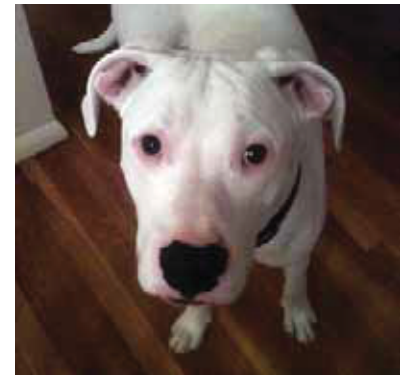
Colby



Dasher



Frankie

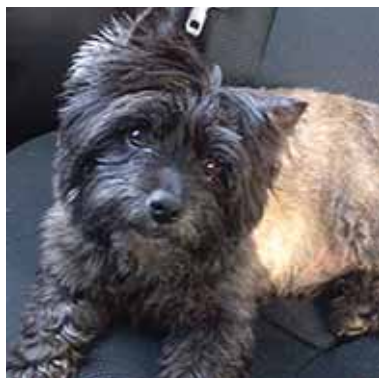


Fred

Adoption Album 2013: Some of Our Happy Endings



Goldie



Griffin



Juliette



Kate



Kobie



Kristi



Lacey



Lucky



MacGregor



Manny



Matilda



Meeny



Mia



Miney



Monty

Adoption Album 2013: Some of Our Happy Endings



Noodles



Ollie



Rusty



Tabitha



TaterTot



Wilber



Wilhelmina

You can save a life by fostering a dog or cat. Email pgspcavol@gmail.com to learn how.

Happy Tails: Adoption Updates

Fred

Fred was dropped off at one of our spay/neuter clinics and when we called his owner to tell him that Fred was ready to go home, the man said he didn't want him.

Recognizing a sweet dog when we saw one, we took Fred into our foster program... and quickly discovered that he's deaf. So his foster guardian did some research on teaching dogs hand signals and began teaching Fred basic commands. And just as we knew...someone fell in love with this special dog.

Today, Fred is living the good life with his person, Kevin...and he's already making changes. According to Kevin's wife, dogs were not allowed in Kevin's truck prior to Fred's arrival. But ev-



ery workday morning, Kevin and Fred hit the road together, with Kevin heading for work and Fred--with his Spider-Man lunchbox--bound for doggy daycare.

More Happy Tails: Updates from Adopters

Monty

I guess you could call me a "failed foster." I started as Monty's foster mom and ended up adopting him. He's a dachshund and terrier mix, weighs 23 pounds...and is thriving.

Monty loves playing tug of war with his plush toys, playing with other dogs--big or small, and chasing any cat that may stray into the yard. He's learning to stay and sit; "lie down" is coming soon.

Now that I have a harness, Monty is great on walks. He also loves cuddling and sleeping with me at night.



Hamilton (aka Bruno)

Hamilton is wonderful! He has many puppy and human friends...and he and his big sister Roux are truly BFFs! I think having Hamilton to look after has put a bit more spring in her step! Many times when Hamilton is sleeping on the couch, Roux will come over to him, wagging her tail, giving him kisses and nudging his paws, as if to say, "come on.....wake up.....it's time to play with me!" It's adorable!

We took a trip to Assateague Island State Park, where Hamilton got to go camping and swimming in the ocean. He even made some wild pony friends. He had a blast!

Thanks once again for bringing Hamilton into our life. I can't imagine our life without him; he is the most loving, happy, loyal, and playful boy!!!!

Angus

I first met Angus at the Bowie adoption show in February. I was very drawn to him because he was so calm—oblivious to all the chaos around him.

When his foster guardian brought him to the house to see how he responded to our cats, he was curious. He went upstairs to the master bedroom and walked past my oldest cat. Then he saw Davey, our second cat, under the bed. Angus sniffed him. But Davey hissed at him. Angus simply cried and ran to his foster guardian. I knew at that moment he was the dog for my family.

My wife, who has allergies and isn't an animal person, couldn't help but fall in love with Angus too. Angus sheds minimally, but he fits right into our family because he is sensitive, affectionate, chill, and a little needy.

We go for family walks and enjoy seeing Angus happy. His personality was perfect for us. In the end, that was what mattered most.



Reducing the Homeless Pet Population

Each year some 15,000 unwanted dogs and cats end up in the Prince George's County animal shelter...found wandering the streets or relinquished by their owners. As many as half of these animals never make it out alive.

But fewer of these animals will face this fate, thanks to four special Spay/Neuter Clinics held by the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County this year.

Altogether, we spayed and neutered 227 dogs and cats at our clinic in Forestville. The majority of these surgeries were provided free to the pets of low-income county residents, thanks to a grant from the Snyder Foundation, as well as generous financial support from donors.

Along with spay/neuter services, our veterinary team also provided necessary vaccinations, including rabies and distemper combination shots, inserted microchips, trimmed nails, cleaned ears, removed teeth, and provided valuable animal health information on such topics as weight control, heartworm prevention, and flea and tick control to pet owners.



Keeping Family Pets Healthy

Scheduled vaccinations are an essential part of animal health care. By conducting monthly low-cost shot clinics, the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County helps ensure the continued health and well being of pets whose owners may not be able to afford regular veterinary care.

In 2013, we vaccinated more than 1500 animals and microchipped more than 110, increasing their chances of being reunited with their families if they are ever lost.

**Would you like to help at our shot clinics?
If so, email pgspcavol@gmail.com.**