



Virginia Partnership for Animal Welfare and Support

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* * * VA PAWS Spotlight * * *

Friends of Animal Care & Control:

A Shelter Outreach Program Update



New and old signs

VA PAWS has always dreamed of one day having a shelter outreach program, though the idea was realized last year with the help of countless volunteers, hard work and determination. Volunteers have been able to move through the 'change barrier' to create a formal and positive relationship with the County Administration, Animal Control Officers, and with little funding or resources. The project '**Friends of Animal Care and Control**' is the first of VA PAWS official shelter outreach programs.

It started in 2003, when members learned about the "Friends of Animal Care and Control" program, in Maricopa County, Arizona, and moved to design it as a pilot program for Montgomery County, in SW Virginia. With new leadership in the County Administration in 2004, an opportunity for change was seen. The first inquiry to the county was made in early 2004. By March, we had succeeded in meeting with the County Administrator and staff to discuss the Friends of Animal Care and Control partnership between VA PAWS and Montgomery County. By May our first public meeting and shelter work days were lined up. In June, new signs were designed and installed giving the public a way to actually find the shelter. Work days throughout the summer included planting, landscaping, painting, new fencing, trash removal, new shelter signs, and general outdoor renovations. In the meantime, VA PAWS started working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the shelter. The Board of Supervisors approved the MOU and SOP in October and it was signed late last year. This partnership between the county and VA PAWS was created to provide guidelines to renovate the existing shelter and planning for a new shelter; assist the county in upgrading license and impound fees; develop a spay/neuter program; and start a volunteer program to expand public hours at the shelter. Best of all, the name of the Animal Control Department was changed to **Montgomery County Animal Care and Control**.

In February of 2005, four **kennel runs were renovated** in the adoption section of the shelter. Peeling paint, rusted and broken gates needed a serious upgrade. With the help of numerous volunteers, the rest of the kennel runs (16 in total) were renovated at the end of April during '**May Day for Mutts**'. The group also renovated a storage room to be used as an office for Animal Control and volunteers. A huge improvement for the animals and the public!

The current hours at the shelter are very restrictive in getting the public to the shelter. The program will allow volunteers to extend the hours on the weekend which will assist more animal adoptions. A **Volunteer Coordinator** has been assigned and training is in the works for volunteers to be on-site in the facility. Volunteers have attended ASPCA **Meet Your Match training**; the **VA Federation of Humane Societies conference** and in August co-sponsored a new and innovative shelter outreach and behavior workshop, '**Project Safety Net**'.

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Before picture of dog run.... and after.

Hero Doberman Saves Family's Life

Kathy Davieds, D.V.M

Sikasso had just turned one year old. Though this red and rust Doberman often acted the part of the goofy puppy and still had lots to learn about life, sound upbringing and training made his overall conduct quite respectable. So why was he uttering a slow, repetitive, very insistent "woof!" in the wee hours of the morning? His owners, Ann and Randy Stith of Blacksburg, VA weren't sure and tried to get him to be quiet. When they could not, Ann got up and let him outside, thinking that's what he might need, then went back to bed.

But again Sikasso woke them up with the same unusual but persistent, assertive "woof!". He would not let them sleep. This time Randy got up. As he passed the front door, he thought the outside lights were on and went to turn them off. When they would not go off, Randy looked outside to see flames shooting from the roof of their house. The entire attic was on fire. There was just enough time to get all the family members, both human and animal, out of the house to safety.

The smoke alarms didn't sound because the electrical fire was still contained to the attic, above all the alarms. The fire chief said that without Sikasso's persistent alert and the Stiths' immediate call to the fire department, the fire would have swept through the entire attic to the rest of the house. Had they been sleeping rather than awakened and alerted to the danger, the outcome might have been a tragic one. According to the fire department, Sikasso not only saved lives, he prevented even more damage to the house and its contents while, quite possibly, keeping the fire from spreading to the Stiths' and their neighbors' wooded lots. The firefighters were so impressed with Sikasso they couldn't stop talking about what he had done. One after another they came up to Ann and Randy saying, "Bet that dog gets a steak dinner tonight."

Little did the Stiths know that less than a year after his arrival, Sikasso-registered name Jesaran's Professor Marvel- would demonstrate the wits, dedication and determination to detect danger and insistently alert them to it. This "Marvel-ous", vigilant, faithful, intelligent and devoted Doberman Pinscher literally saved the lives of all in his family, including the two cats!

The New River Valley Kennel Club presented Sikasso with their first Canine Hero Award recently, and he has been nominated for several other similar awards. The one irony in this otherwise wonderful story is to be found in the fact that, as the Stiths subsequently sought temporary housing and new homeowner's insurance, they were repeatedly denied and turned away. The reason? They own a Doberman! This gentle, loving, trustworthy dog saved human and other lives AND saved an insurance company tens of thousands of dollars. There is no more classic example of why BSL, or Breed Specific Legislation, and policies discriminating against certain dog breeds, are unfounded, unfair and unwise!



VA PAWS' **PetSafe** of the NRV continues to provide victims of domestic violence with assistance and shelter for their pets. **PetSafe** of the NRV partners with The Women's Resource Center in providing referrals and help for pets in need of safe housing.

VA PAWS would also like to welcome Andrea as our new **PetSafe** coordinator.

For more information or if you need assistance; call (540) 381-4643.

Happy Endings From the Montgomery County Animal Care and Control Shelter



Quincy

Friends of Animal Care and Control hopes to help decrease the number of animals coming into the shelter and educate people about the responsibilities of owning a pet. We would like to share some happy adoption stories of those lucky pets that were given a second chance.

Quincy was adopted as a puppy from the Montgomery County Animal Shelter. After growing up in Blacksburg, Quincy moved with his owners and is now living the good life in sunny California, where he enjoys hiking, long walks on the beach, and vacationing at Lake Tahoe.

Houston was just a young pup when he was adopted from the Montgomery County Animal Shelter. He now lives on a large farm with three boys to keep him occupied, and many sheep, cows, horses, and other animals to watch over. His important day-to-day jobs include seeing his boys off to the school bus in the morning, and keeping the cows out of the yard. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer with the boys, (although sometimes when he steals the ball, he just likes to bark at it.)



Houston

Continued from page one...

All of this work has happened with only a handful of dedicated volunteers and limited fundraising. Grants from the **Community Foundation of the NRV** funded new signs for the shelter (see pictures on pg 1), **renovation of the adoption runs; and spay/neuter assistance (in partnership with county funds)** to implement a sterilization program for shelter animals in 2005-06. Two golf tournaments held courtesy of the Blacksburg Country Club raised significant additional funding.

With the assistance from FACC and urging from volunteers, the shelter now has a **high speed internet connection** to utilize the newly acquired **Shelter Buddy Software** specially designed for the shelter; a **new automated response telephone system; computers;** and additional **road signs** to direct the public to the shelter.

We are very fortunate to have the continued support of the County Administration, the ASPCA, HSUS, CFNRV and to have formed a partnership with the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Opportunities to move our community into a future where fewer animals will suffer, has only been possible with their help, for which we are most grateful.



Tom Wills & Jason Shelton

VA PAWS RECEIVES LARGE DONATION FROM IAMS PET FOOD COMPANY!

The Iams Pet Food Company partnered with VA PAWS, to provide a significant donation (nearly 40 pallets) of Iams products to help orphaned pets in the NRV and Roanoke Valley. "This donation helped numerous nonprofit shelters and rescue groups care for the pets in their care" reported Lila Borge Wills, VA PAWS President. Wills arranged for the donation to assist as many shelters as possible. "Collaboration and partnership is key to our mission, and it is the best way to **help people help animals**".

The Second Harvest Food Bank in Salem collaborated to assist VA PAWS in distributing the large Iams donation. The donation assisted nonprofit organizations including Patrick Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Sheltie Rescue of N VA, Doberman Assistance, Rescue and Education, Salem Animal Control, Roanoke Valley SPCA, Angels of Assisi, Dalmatian Rescue of SW VA, Star City Greyhound Adoptions, Wythe County Animal Shelter, Silky Terrier Rescue, Floyd County Humane Society, Montgomery County Animal Care and Control, Radford Pound Pals, Siberian Husky Assist, Pulaski County Humane Society and Animal Control, Giles Animal Rescue, and Lab Rescue of SW VA.

"The Iams Company is happy to help orphan pets in the Roanoke and New River Valley area of SW Virginia. This Iams product donation is part of bringing our mission to enhance pet well-being to life" reports Kris Parlett, Iams External Relations Specialist. **We thank IAMS and the staff at the Second Harvest Food Bank for their tireless efforts in assisting with this project.**

VA PAWS Receives Compassion Award from VFHS

At the 2005 Annual Conference of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS) in Roanoke, VA PAWS was awarded the **Compassion Award**. This annual award recognizes an active member organization which has demonstrated strong leadership qualities and which has excelled in promoting animal welfare issues and programs. The Compassion Award honors Pearl Twyne, who founded the VFHS in 1959.

Spay / Neuter Update

Cats/Female	230
Cats/Males	160
Dogs/Female	149
<u>Dogs/Males</u>	<u>76</u>

Total for 2005 : 615

Thank you to Angels of Assisi, VMRCVM, and our local veterinarians

Thank you so much for all of your help this year!

Tom Wills & Hans Meadow Kennel

Clay Goodman III, County Administrator & Carol Edmonds, Asst. County Administrator

FACC Executive Planning Committee and volunteers

Beth Walker Dorthea Auger Ruth Emblar Sophia Leedy Tania Anderson

Town and Country Veterinary Clinic & North Main Small Animal Clinic

Blacksburg Downtown Merchants Association

Chris Thompson, NRV Fund for Animals and the Community Foundation of the NRV

VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

Ernest Luci and staff, Second Harvest Food Bank

Laura Lanza, ASPCA, Shelter Outreach—Southern Region

Kris Parlett, IAMS

Membership levels:

Individual/Family	\$ 10.00
Sponsor	\$ 25.00
Corporate	\$100.00
Lifetime	\$250.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please mail to:
VA PAWS TREASURER
P.O. Box 172 Christiansburg, VA 24068

You may also make a donation for:

“The Grace Fund” \$ _____
 To support animal cruelty/ humane violence programs

Spay / Neuter Program \$ _____

General Funds \$ _____
All donations are tax deductible

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

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The Virginia Partnership for Welfare and Support serves the New River Valley area of Virginia.
 Our non-profit organization, run by volunteers, relies solely on donations and grants from caring, socially conscious individuals.

Please contact us at 3VA-PAWS (382-7297)

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