



HERITAGE HUMANE SOCIETY

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER | HERITAGEHUMANE.ORG

READ ONLINE

heritagehumane.org
STORIES, PHOTOS,
& MORE



TOGETHER WE
CAN CONTINUE TO
CHANGE THE LIVES OF
HOMELESS PETS. OUR
WORK NEVER STOPS.
NOW MORE THAN
EVER WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT. HELP US
HELP THEM.

In This Together



NEW FAMILIES. NEW ADOPTERS.
PETS FINDING HOMES
DURING COVID-19
Pg. 12-13

Meet Fancy
LEARN MORE ABOUT
HER STORY INSIDE
Pg. 6



430 Waller Mill Rd | Williamsburg, VA 23185
757-221-0150 | info@heritagehumanesociety.org

Heritage Humane Society Leadership Staff

Kimberly Laska | Executive Director
kim@heritagehumanesociety.org

Christian Reeves | Finance Director
christian@heritagehumanesociety.org

Diana Krell | Operations Manager
diana@heritagehumanesociety.org

Catherine Watts | Medical Team Manager
catherine@heritagehumanesociety.org

Jennifer Lafountain | Volunteer &
Community Engagement Manager
jennifer@heritagehumanesociety.org

Tanya Nash | Customer Care Supervisor
tanya@heritagehumanesociety.org

Nicole D'Alessandro | Admin & Finance Coordinator
nicole@heritagehumanesociety.org

Rock Washington | Operations Supervisor
rock@heritagehumanesociety.org

Meryl Lessinger, DVM | Contract Veterinarian

Adam T. Claar | Animal Behavior Consultant

2020 Board Members

Heather Harmon, President
Sarah Melchior, Vice President
Randy Hawthorne, Treasurer
Pamela Mason, Secretary
John Morgan, Auxiliary Liaison
Brittney Coiner
Joseph Ingham
Martha McCartney
Ben Sadtler
Sean Sparkman, DVM
Edgar Torres
Melanie Wynkoop

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As you all can imagine, the last 2 months have been a crazy time for all of us, **but one constant that never waivers is the love that the pets in our community receive each and every day!** We had so many calls and messages about what was happening here at Heritage Humane Society when the Stay-At-Home order was issued. For the pets and community members in need, we did our best to keep everything going as usual. We moved to essential staff only inside the shelter, and we increased our social media and online presence to help keep our volunteers and community members engaged. Our adoptions switched over to an appointment-based system. We continued to take in pets as needed and found that many of our longer residents were also adopted. We used the time with fewer pets in our program to work toward lasting improvements for the shelter, such as the Dog Kennel Renovation Project which you will enjoy reading about on page 4. **Our team was there and they delivered the quality of care and TLC that our pets and community deserve. With your support, we were ready!**

There were days that our team struggled, pets didn't get as much exercise because our 600+ volunteers needed to shelter in their homes, and our team was weary from the long hours. Then something (or someone) would come along and bring a smile to everyone's face. Maybe it was a special food delivery, or enrichment supplies that

our team members knew would make the dogs feel super excited. Sometimes it was a long-term resident going home after waiting for many months for the right home. It continuously showed us all that "We are in this Together" and we will get through it together!

On behalf of the 100+ pets in our care including both the shelter and foster homes, we want to say THANK YOU! It is because of you that we stand ready for any vehicle that pulls up to our building. Very recently, we had a morning when 7 orphaned kittens and an owner-surrender cat all arrived at the same time, and a harder-to-adopt dog was leaving our program with his "foster-failure" mom. If you haven't been a foster, this might seem like an odd term, but they are our favorite type of fosters that take on the harder cases and then fall in love. You can say that we all had our hands full that morning.



Our team pulls together when unexpected surprises arrive at our door.

Recently I was asked to reflect on my WHY while doing a presentation to a civic group. I must say that for me, it's our team, mission, and lives we are able to positively impact. Each of us have those pets that have found a special soft-spot in our heart, the ones that we personally want to take home but often know there is someone else that needs them more than we do. In this issue on page 6, you will get to read about a huge why for me. Fancy (now Ellie) is my screensaver at work and many of you have learned about her when we talk about our mission. She is thriving in her new home, and I feel that Heritage Humane as well as the loving community members, police force, CARE Fund donors, and her new family all contributed to this amazing outcome. On days when I am feeling overwhelmed by what is happening in our nation, I take a walk through the shelter, talk to our compassionate team members, sit with a pet, and reflect on the goodness that surrounds us.



ABOVE: Kimberly Laska and Fancy the dog (now called Ellie). Read about her amazing story on page 4.



Meet Heather!

OUR NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello, my name is **Heather Harmon**. I love to help create and foster a positive environment where people are free to become their very best selves. The glorious part of being involved with Heritage Humane Society is these amazing people are making the lives of animals better too. It's really a big win for my soul and I'm honored to be able to serve.

We hope you enjoy reading the stories and updates in this newsletter. It was in its final layout when everything came to a screeching halt so we stopped and waited until more things were settled. Most of our events were cancelled and that had a major impact on our fundraising goals. The DoG Street Strut was turned VIRTUAL with a wonderful turnout that you can read about on pages 14 & 15. Give Local 757 was a wonderful day for us too, with 250 donors participating and 10% of them were brand-new donors! What a wonderful way to support our program. Thank you! In order for us to continue the life-saving work you are seeing here, we need your on-going support. Please consider making a donation today by visiting heritagehumane.org/donate or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your kindness and compassion to pets in need. Sending positive vibes for good health and better days ahead to you all.

Warm Regards,

Kimberly Laska
Executive Director

PS - Did you know that the CARES Act is incentivizing charitable giving in 2020 by allowing for a deduction of up to \$300 for those that don't itemize their taxes? There are other incentives as well but we encourage you to talk to your accountant or to research the new guidelines directly to see how it can impact you. This could really add up for generous supporters like you.



Dog Kennel Renovation Project

KIBBLE KITCHEN



Open and ready to help

Our Dog Kennels Are Under Construction!

We need your help! For many years, our shelter has been doing the best we can to keep the dog kennels in decent shape and have gone through many different versions of repairs. Did you know that in the past seven years, our shelter has housed and cared for **more than 5,300 dogs**? No wonder the kennels have been through so much. With our daily deep cleaning and constant use, any surface would wear down. We have a plan to improve our dog kennels and need your support in order for this to become a reality!

*Donations of **\$250 or more** will be acknowledged on a sign at our adoption facility.

[HERITAGEHUMANE.ORG/DOGRUNS](https://heritagehumane.org/dogrunds)



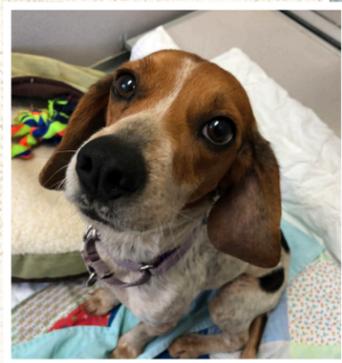
PUT YOUR CAMERA PHONE HERE TO GIVE

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

Goal \$50,000



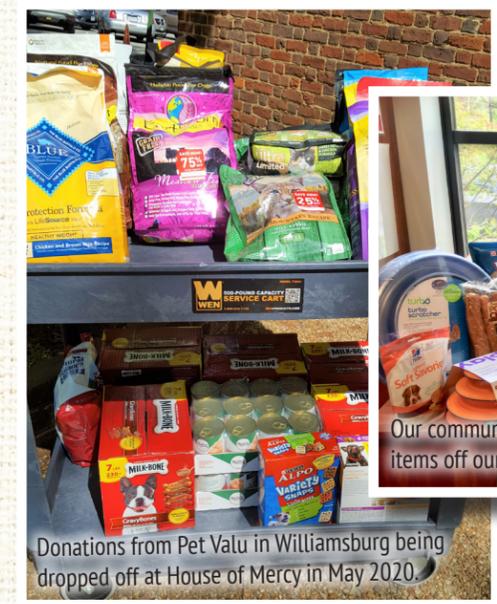
Total raised: \$30,930.38



Many people have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. During these difficult times, we want to let our community know that our Kibble Kitchen is still open and ready to help. The Heritage Humane Society Kibble Kitchen has been a vital part of our mission for many years now. The program provides pet food and supplies to people in our community who need extra help. **Recently we partnered with Williamsburg House of Mercy to further our reach.** Pet supply donations are dropped off weekly at their facility. This partnership has allowed hundreds of families in the area to receive vital pet supplies. No one should have to worry about feeding their pets during these difficult times. With your support, we can continue to provide these services to those that need it the most.

heritagehumane.org/kibblekitchen

Our Kibble Kitchen relies on donations to continue operating. Over the past couple of months we have received generous donations from local businesses and individuals in our community. If you are able to help, please consider donating. We want to do our part to assist as many families as possible. With your generosity we can do that. Visit the website above to learn more and to see our Wish Lists.



Donations from Pet Valu in Williamsburg being dropped off at House of Mercy in May 2020.



Our community coming to our aid and purchasing items off our Amazon Wish List in April 2020.



A generous donation from CMA's Williamsburg Ford in May 2020.

FANCY'S STORY: FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING



Fancy when she first arrived at Heritage Humane Society in October 2019.

FURTHERING OUR REACH TO HELP MORE PETS



Every day, homeless pets facing desperate situations arrive at our doors. Some arrive only needing basic vaccines, general flea/tick treatments, spay/neuter surgery and are then ready for adoption. Others arrive with bigger medical issues and with heartbreaking backstories.

Our dedicated staff and veterinarian quickly went into action to provide Fancy with around the clock care. Gradually over many weeks, Fancy slowly started showing signs of improvement. Her hair slowly started growing back and the staff starting to see her tail wagging a little more each day.

Fancy was found abandoned in the back of a truck in Williamsburg in October 2019. The Williamsburg Police found Fancy and brought her to Heritage Humane Society. **When she arrived she was missing all of her hair, had scabs on her head and body, and was in desperate need of medical treatment.** It was determined that Fancy was approximately 6-months-old and had Demodex Mange, which is a skin infection caused by parasitic mites. The mites will burrow through the skin causing intense itching and irritation. The scratching that results from mange is what causes the majority of the animal's hair to fall out. The critical state that Fancy was in when she arrived at the shelter did not happen overnight. She had most likely been battling with mange for a while.

Dr. Andrew MacDougall, a previous contract veterinarian of Heritage Humane Society, fell in love with Fancy and decided to take her home to foster and continue her treatment. Having an experienced veterinarian continue to provide critical care and socialization did wonders! Her hair continued to grow back and she started showing her sweet personality. Oftentimes, she was a bit itchy during her recovery. **However, the creative (and adorable) solution was to get her pajamas and sweaters galore!** Today Fancy is now called Ellie and Dr. MacDougall has officially adopted her. She still has a long road to recovery ahead of her, but thanks to our community support she has a very bright future.



Fancy (now Ellie) is enjoying a very pampered life in her new home!

**WANT TO HELP?
YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS
HELP US CONTINUE TO
PROVIDE CRITICAL CARE TO
HOMELESS PETS.
HERITAGEHUMANE.ORG/DONATE**

Our team was contacted about a group of cats living in dire living conditions on a property in North Carolina earlier this year. **The cats were living outside in various metal enclosures. Their litter boxes, linens, water, and food bowls were filthy.** After seeing the photos, we knew immediately that we needed to help! Because of the financial support of our community, when there was a plea for help, we were able to jump into action. On January 22, a total of 11 cats were safely trapped and kenneled and began the long journey to Williamsburg, VA.

amazing foster volunteers swooped in to help. Because these cats never had the opportunity to live inside, they needed time to decompress and learn how to be indoor kitties. The also needed to build trust with people. All of the cats went to foster homes where our volunteers gave them time and space to relax and acclimate to a home environment. It is always important to give pets their own time to get comfortable. Having experienced foster volunteers provide that was vital for these cats' futures. After the cats became more socialized, **our Adoption Team was able to find loving forever homes for all the cats.**

When the cats arrived at our shelter our entire team sprung into action to provide the cats with critical medical care. Our Medical Team examined, vaccinated, and treated all 11 cats. Once the cats were cleared medically, our

It truly takes a village to save pet lives. We are grateful to our community for continuing to provide us the **financial support to further our rescue efforts to Williamsburg and beyond!**

LIVING CONDITIONS PRIOR TO THEIR RESCUE



The day she arrived at HHS she was missing the majority of her hair and had scabs all over.



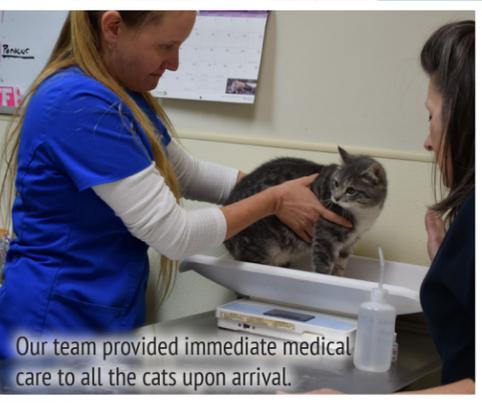
Her first meal at HHS. Your donations allowed us to provide Fancy with immediate care.



With around the clock treatment and care Fancy's fur gradually started growing back.



The 11 cats arrived at Heritage Humane Society on Jan 22.



Our team provided immediate medical care to all the cats upon arrival.

Help us continue our rescue efforts. Your gift to Heritage Humane Society will forever change the lives of pets in need.

**GIVE NOW AT:
heritagehumane.org/donate
or call 757-221-0150**

VOLUNTEER *Spotlight*

BECOME A HERO *Donate. Save Lives.*



Be a voice for the voiceless

Meet Andy and Krista Carpenter. They are two of our Heritage Humane Society volunteers that have dedicated countless hours over the years to saving lives. They are experienced foster volunteers for our shelter. Because of their experience, compassion, and reliability they oftentimes foster the kittens that need extra care and attention. During the spring and summer when we have a big influx of orphaned kittens coming through our doors, they are often fostering multiple sets of litters at a time! Andy is also a huge help with maintenance projects at the shelter. Krista has been a vital part of organizing our Mega Yard Sales. She spends hours of her time organizing, sorting, and pricing the items that are donated to the shelter. On behalf of all the staff and the pets, we wanted to thank Andy and Krista for their continued generosity and support.



heritagehumane.org/volunteer



ON THE JOB



Not every cat is meant to snuggle in your lap. Some are much happier being on pest control duty. Our Career Cat Program helps find homes for a variety of cats ranging from feral, to friendly, to something inbetween.

HERITAGEHUMANE.ORG/CAREER-CATS



Bumper Boat & Go-Cart (and their new pig friend). Adopted Jan 2020.



Jasper. Adopted March 2020.



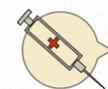
One of the many HHS barn cats that "work" at Foxwire Farms Alpacas in Toano, VA



Krumpet. Adopted in May 2020.

An automatic and recurring gift can be easily set-up online through Heritage Humane's monthly giving form. It's a convenient way to give – you can give automatic gifts via your credit or debit card. At any time, you can call us and we can make adjustments to your monthly gifts.

Why Monthly? Donors like that they're able to provide steady, ongoing support. Donors also appreciate that they are able to make a larger annual gift (building their tax deduction) because payments are spread out all year. And HHS can count on **monthly, sustainable donations** to provide top-quality care throughout the year.



\$25 will provide a set of vaccines for one pet upon arrival at the shelter



\$50 will provide enrichment activities for all pets for one week



\$100 will cover the spay/neuter costs for one pet before adoption



\$250 will sponsor food for all sheltered pets for one week



\$350 will sponsor the cost of care for one pet from intake to adoption



\$500 will provide urgent veterinary care for an emergency intake

Leela, an orphaned kitten transferred in from an over-crowded shelter. She had congenital glaucoma in her right eye. Because of YOU we were able to provide her the surgery she needed.

Before Surgery

Emmy Lou. She was found abandoned on the side of the road at just one month old. Your donations allowed us to provide her with critical care, vaccines, food, and so much more.

Found abandoned on the side of the road

Visit heritagehumane.org/donate to learn about one time, monthly, and planned giving options. Help us to continue to provide top care to pets in need.



Welcome to the **HERITAGE HUMANE SOCIETY** *Kitten Nursery*

It's hard not to smile when picturing what a kitten nursery looks like, right? Adorable "mewing" kittens in all four corners of the room. Milky whiskers, "kneading" paws and pouncing balls of fluff bouncing around the room.

But, if you look beyond the adorableness of the neonatal kittens, and nursing moms, **you'll see this area is a life-saving operation.** The Heritage Humane Society's Medical Team Manager manages the movements of the kittens throughout the shelter and the organization's growing foster program.

Each spring and summer, armfuls of un-weaned, and orphaned kittens receive life-saving formula by bottle, every 2-4 hours. **These kittens may need around-the-clock care and attention.** Often these kittens will go home with trained foster care volunteers for continued care and observation.

It's Raining Kittens

Orphaned kittens are the most vulnerable of pets that arrive at our door. And when they arrive, they come flooding through the doors. As the weather gets warmer earlier in the year, and stays warm longer into the fall, unaltered pets tend to roam. From there, we accredit the overflow of kittens to the birds and the bees, and unaltered cats.

It's a fact, a young cat can get pregnant at just 4 months of age! And, after a litter is born, they can get pregnant again after just a few weeks! This influx of kittens is a struggle for shelters across the country. It's not uncommon to see cardboard boxes full of kittens arrive at our door every day.

There's a Bright Light at the End of the Tunnel

Thanks to donations and caregivers' love and attention, each kitten that arrives through our door is guaranteed to receive the care and resources needed to not just survive, but to thrive!

Learn more about our Wish Lists. Help pets when they need it the most. Visit heritagehumane.org/wish-lists.

amazon

smile

DID YOU KNOW...

Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price.

The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the **AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5%** of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice (**wink, wink, Heritage Humane Society!**)

PERCY'S ADOPTION STORY



RESCUER



TO ADOPTER!

Our Community Working Together

We wanted to share a very unique and heartwarming adoption story from 2020. Percy's life before someone named Torie adopted him will always be a mystery. He was surrendered to Heritage Humane Society in January 2020, along with three other dogs. Not much is known about their upbringing or how they were treated. **What was obvious was all the dogs were terrified of human contact. Anytime a staff member would approach them, their instinct was to curl up in a corner and try to hide.** They were very trusting of dogs, but with people there was a paralyzing fear.

Our staff knew there would be a long journey for Percy and his friends to ever feel comfortable and confident in a home. After getting neutered and receiving his medical exams and vaccinations the decision was made to place Percy in a foster home where he could slowly build trust with people. Unfortunately, while in his new foster home, Percy accidentally escaped and ran off. He had only been in the foster home for a few days, so our staff knew to act quickly if we would ever have any luck finding him. **Volunteers, employees, and community members worked tirelessly for days searching for him.** After a week went by, someone finally spotted him. It was a relief to know where he was, but sadly we knew it was only the beginning of his rescue.

Percy still had a natural fear of people. If anyone tried to approach him he would run away. The last thing we wanted was for him to get spooked and run away again. We knew his capture would involve patience and persistence. A camera, food, water, and a trap were set-up.

Our staff took turns monitoring the camera 24 hours a day. He came very close to going into the trap several times, but never quite went all the way in. Weeks went by with no luck. Our team continued to go to the area on a regular basis to quietly sit and hope that Percy would build enough trust to come to us. One of the helpers was a community member named Torie. She spent hours in the woods patiently watching over Percy. **Finally on April 2, we were able to successfully catch Percy. He was immediately brought to the shelter and was thankfully in good health.**

The best part of the story is that Torie ended up falling in love with Percy during her rescue adventure and adopted him. We were all thrilled to see this little hound dog finally have his happily ever after. **We recently received an update for Torie about Percy. "He is well loved and knows it," says Torie.**



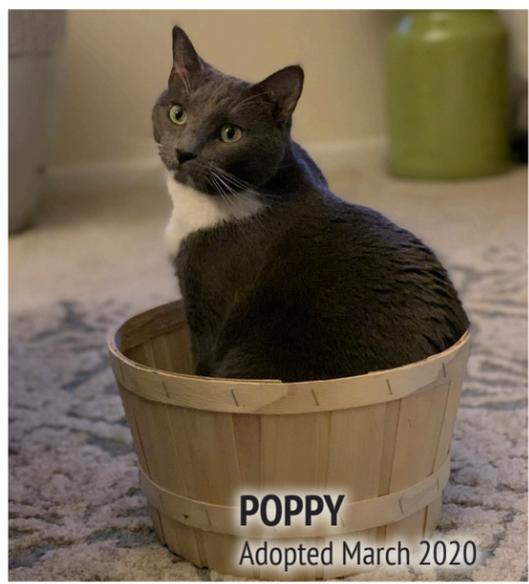
Percy happy in his new home!



Want to read more stories like this one? Check out our online blog at heritagehumane.org/blog



JAY
Adopted March 2020



POPPY
Adopted March 2020



TATER
Adopted Jan 2020

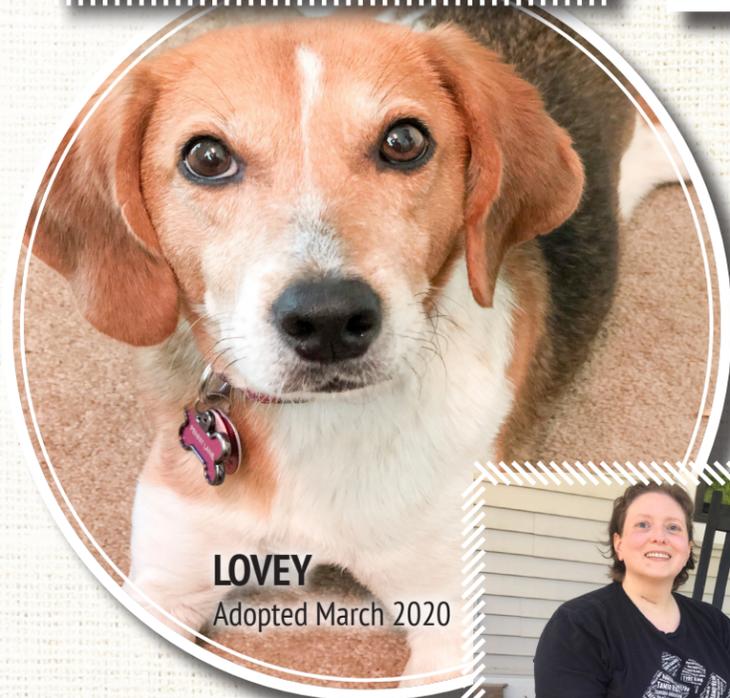


TURTLE & JENKINS
Adopted Feb 2020 & Adopted July 2019

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM
OUR HHS ADOPTERS!

PLEASE EMAIL US STORIES,
PHOTOS, & VIDEOS OF YOUR PETS!
YOU MIGHT SEE THEM
FEATURED ON OUR SOCIAL
MEDIA PAGES.

ADOPT@HERITAGEHUMANESOCIETY.ORG



LOVEY
Adopted March 2020

New Families

Some of our adopters
from 2020



TUG
Adopted March 2020



QUEEN
Adopted May 2020

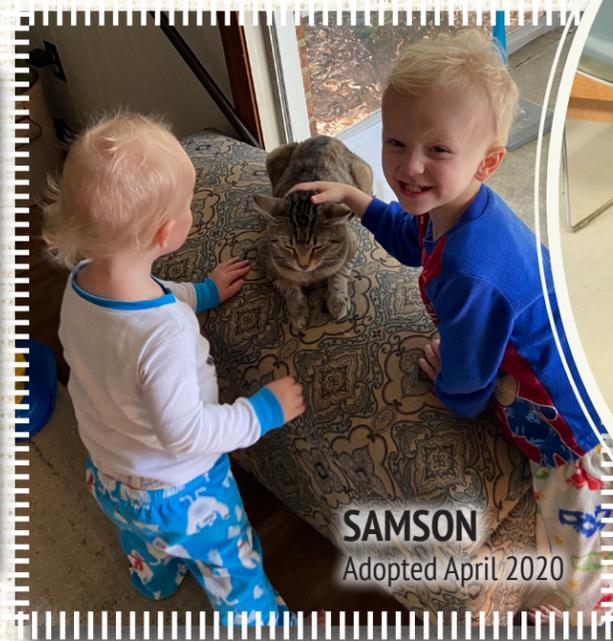

FAMILY IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT.
It is AMAZING to see people opening their homes and hearts to pets, especially during these uncertain times. More than 400 pets have been adopted so far in 2020. Here a some of the wonderful updates from our HHS adopters of 2020!
LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ADOPTABLE PETS AT:
heritagehumane.org/adopt



CHOCOLATE
Adopted Jan 2020



KLONDIKE
Adopted Feb 2020



SAMSON
Adopted April 2020



GUNTHER
Adopted March 2020



VIRTUAL DOG STREET STRUT

A VIRTUAL BENEFIT WALK FOR THE HOMELESS PETS OF WILLIAMSBURG & BEYOND

The Heritage Humane Society's first VIRTUAL DoG Street Strut was a huge success. We had 332 VIRTUAL walkers and their pets participate from the comfort of their homes. Each walker received the event t-shirt and pet bandana delivered right to their home. We also asked our participants to show off their pets in fun online contests!



Our virtual walkers documented their STRUTS with their pets and sent us AMAZING photos and videos. To see the full photo album visit:
[HERITAGEHUMANE.ORG/STRUTALBUM2020](https://heritagehumane.org/strutalbum2020)

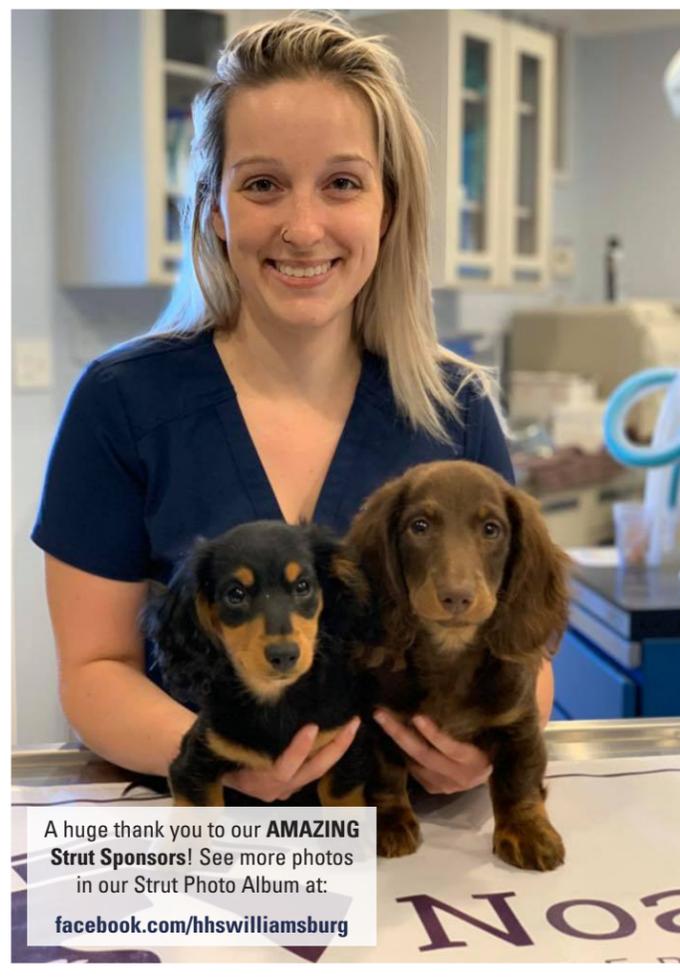


Hurry! There's still time to purchase the 2020 Virtual Strut t-shirt and pet bandana (while supplies last)
[HERITAGEHUMANE.ORG/SHOP](https://heritagehumane.org/shop)



CONTESTS

- Best Dressed Pet
- Best Pet Trick
- Best Pet/Owner Selfie
- Best Pet Strut
- Best Non-Dog Pet



A huge thank you to our AMAZING Strut Sponsors! See more photos in our Strut Photo Album at:
facebook.com/hhswilliamsburg



THANK YOU SPONSORS

2020 DoG Street Strut Sponsors

GOLD SPONSOR:



Noah's Ark
 VETERINARY HOSPITAL

BANDANA SPONSOR:



WYDAILY
 WILLIAMSBURG YORKTOWN DAILY



WATER STATION SPONSORS:



WAGGING TAILS SPONSORS:



WALK CHAMPION SPONSORS:



A Year in Review

Our 2019 fundraisers and events were made possible by YOU! Thank you to everyone who supported us.

MARS CON
JAN 18 - 20



FIDO FEST
MAR 16



HERITAGE HUMANE SOCIETY DOG STREET STRUT
APRIL 13



ANIMAL CAMP
JULY - AUG



Charities National Adoption Weekend
FEB 22 - 24
MAY 17 - 19
SEPT 13 - 15
NOV 8 - 10



Drizzle in the POOL
SEPT 7



MAKE PAR FOR PETS 2020 GOLF CLASSIC
SEPT 20



HOLIDAY BAZAAR
NOV 23



HOLIDAY FUR TREE
NOV - DEC



Heritage Humane Society Auxiliary HOLIDAY BAZAAR

November 23, 2019

The Heritage Humane Society's annual HOLIDAY BAZAAR was a HUGE success. Because of our community's support **over \$50,000** was raised! Thank you to our sponsors, Heritage Humane Society Auxiliary volunteers, and supporters for making this festive holiday event possible!

HERITAGEHUMANE.ORG/BAZAAR

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2019 BAZAAR SPONSORS!

Noah's Ark Veterinary Clinic
Priority Nissan Williamsburg
The Hound's Tale
WY DAILY

CE Travelers Advantage Club
Gore Capital Management
Godspeed Animal Care
Peninsula Animal Referral Center
Toby's Dog House
Williamsburg Orthodontics
Williamsburg Veterinary Clinic
Wild Birds Unlimited
Wilson Law PLC

Anderson Financial Advisory Group
Cii Services
Edward Jones Investments
In Memory Of.Us
Ironbound Gym
Jim Mundy
Maddie Christensen
Muddy Marley's Dog Wash
New Town Dental Arts
The Pet Resort at Greensprings
The Velvet Shoestring

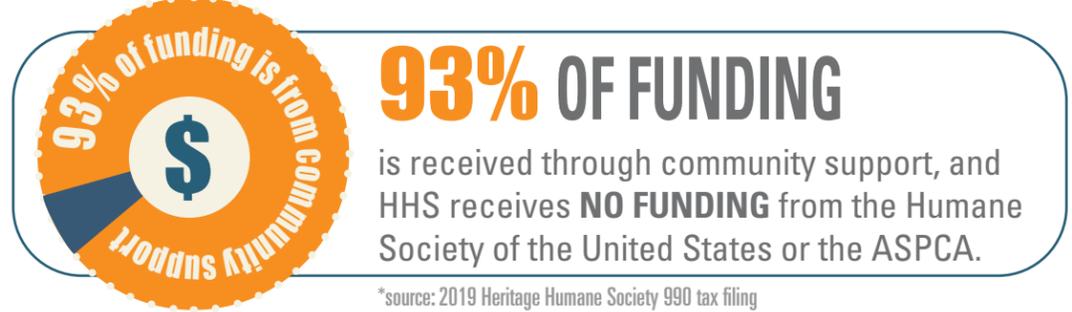
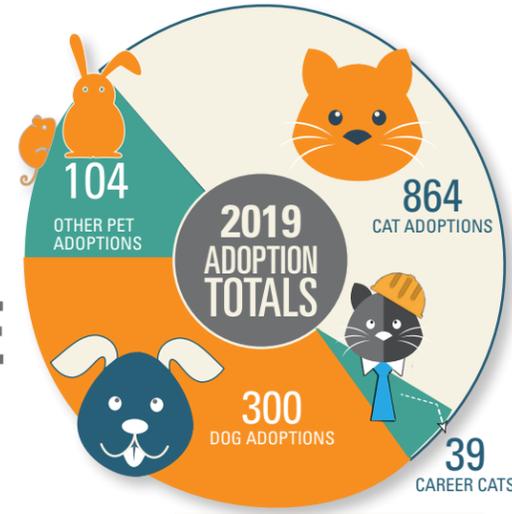


SAVE THE DATE

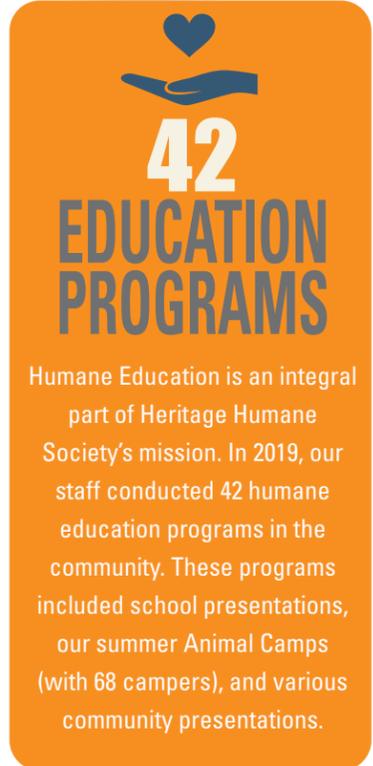
Nov 21, 2020

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

HERITAGE HUMANE SOCIETY 2019 IMPACT REPORT



OTHER OUTCOMES In 2019, a total of 1,857 animals came through Heritage Humane Society's doors. The Heritage Humane Society takes in animals from all over, in many different states of health. In addition, neonatal puppies and kittens born to mothers in stressful shelter situations face an uphill battle. Euthanasia at Heritage Humane Society is performed with kindness and dignity to relieve suffering and is part of providing humane care to animals who are suffering. In 2019: 20 animals died and 76 animals were euthanized at the Adoption Center or while in the care of our veterinary partners. Additionally, 170 pets remained in our care on December 31, 2019.



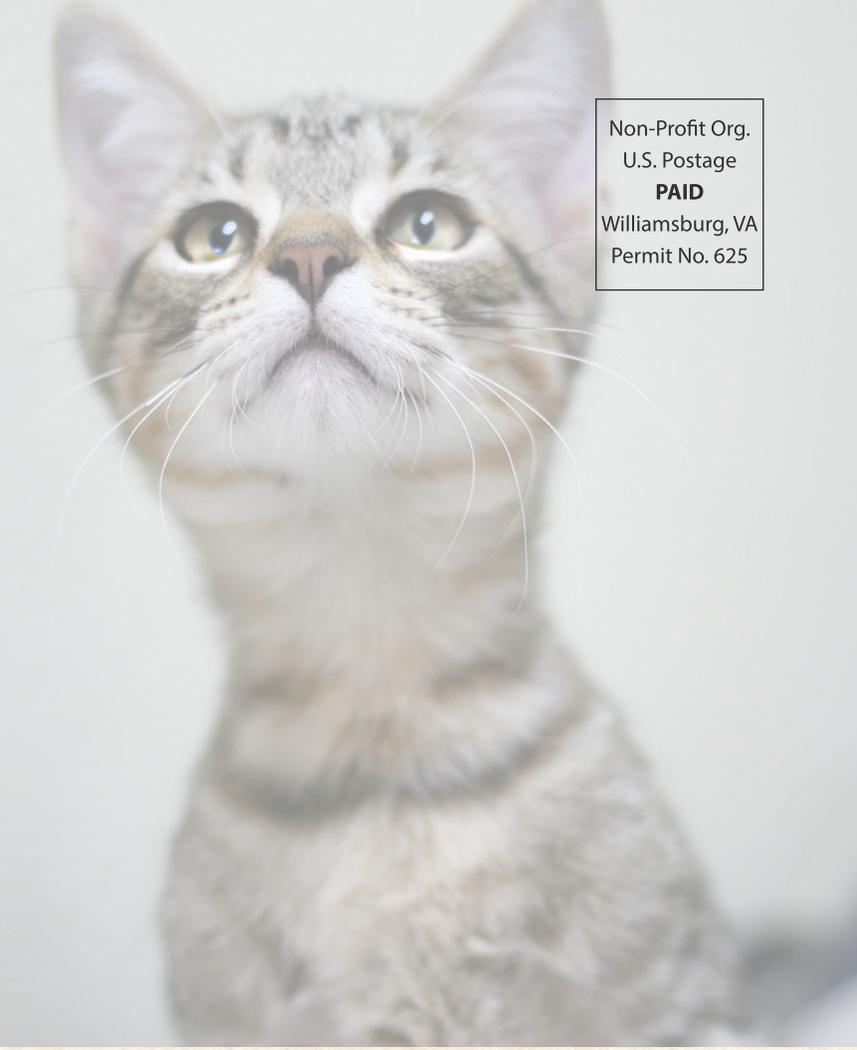
**HERITAGE
HUMANE SOCIETY**

430 Waller Mill Rd. | Williamsburg, VA 23185 | heritagehumane.org | 757-221-0150



HERITAGE
HUMANE SOCIETY
430 Waller Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Williamsburg, VA
Permit No. 625



NEW!



heritagehumane.org/shop



made from
recycled plastic bottles

**SHOP ONLINE.
SAVE LIVES.**

SHOP NOW AT:
heritagehumane.org/shop