



Media Release

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LOCAL SHELTERS WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE SPACE FOR HUGE INFLUX OF ANIMALS AT PENINSULA REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER

Hampton Roads, VA - Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter (PRAS) has received 278 animals since July 15th. Of these, 88 animals – 71 dogs, 10 cats, 6 hamsters, and 1 guinea pig – were seized from two homes by Newport News Animal Welfare. These pets were allegedly found in unsanitary living conditions and are being kept at the shelter on a seizure hold. That means the pets can't be adopted out, creating an indefinite strain on the shelter's resources. PRAS was already experiencing a critical cage space crisis.

Other local animal shelters want to help by transferring in animals from PRAS, but many are overwhelmed themselves. They're urging community members to foster or adopt to create kennel space at their organizations for PRAS animals. "Each of our Hampton Roads municipal shelters has faced a large influx of animals at some time or another," states Lacy Shirey, Executive Director with Chesapeake Humane Society. "Our region's private and public shelters remain committed to collaborating and supporting each other during times like this so we can lessen the burden on any one shelter, especially right now as our shelters are all dangerously at capacity."

Chesapeake Humane Society and Virginia Beach Animal Care and Adoption Center have started to ease the workload by transferring in pocket pets and dogs from PRAS. The team at Heritage Humane Society is working with their foster network to determine how much their organization can take on. Virginia Beach SPCA is hopeful that they will have space to help after placing some of the pets currently in their care. Portsmouth Humane is organizing a Speed Dating style foster and adoption event to free up kennels.

"We have two empty kennels right now, and our team was still ready to jump in," says Alison Fechino, Executive Director at Portsmouth Humane. "It takes all of us to tackle something this big. The more the community helps us, the more our shelters can help each other." Adopting or fostering a pet from these participating shelters allows them to take additional transfers from PRAS. Foster and adoptive homes are needed for dogs, cats, and pocket pets, but medium to large dogs are the greatest area of need.

Contact one of the following organizations to learn how to foster or adopt:

Chesapeake Humane Society: <https://chesapeakehumane.org/>

Heritage Humane Society: <https://heritagehumane.org/>

Portsmouth Humane: <https://portsmouthhumanesociety.org/>

Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter: www.PeninsulaAnimalShelter.com

Virginia Beach Animal Care and Adoption Center: <https://www.vbacac.com/>

Virginia Beach SPCA: <https://vbspca.com/>
