

10,979: the number of volunteer hours contributed this year.

955: the number of dogs and cats adopted between January and October.

40: the number of cat condos on the adoption floor.



Homecoming

A newsletter from the **Fairfax County Animal Shelter**

Special Thanks to Adopters This Season

This holiday season, the greatest gift you can give a shelter pet is a new home. Through Dec. 31, when you adopt, you'll receive a gift bag full of goodies. It's our way of saying thank you to our adopters. Plus, take advantage of half-off adoption fees on all adult pets!

Look for special events, programs and incentive days by visiting the Animal Shelter calendar at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/ and be sure to look for our "Twelve Days of Adoptables," a co-promotion between FCAS and the Washington Humane Society. From Dec. 12 to 24 we'll feature 12 shelter favorites whose adoptions will be fee-waived. Help these cats, dogs and bunnies jingle all the way home!



Good Night and Sweet Dreams!

At 8 p.m., when many people are at home settling in for the evening, volunteer Bobbi Baird is reading to the shelter dogs. Among the dogs' favorites are "Goodnight Moon" and anything by Dr. Seuss.

Reading to the dogs seems to stop the barking and whining behavior associated with kennel stress and anxiety. Interested in reading to the dogs or one of our other unique volunteer opportunities? Apply today to become a volunteer!

Olde Towne Takes Shelter Help to the Next Level

Olde Towne Pet Resort in Springfield has given generously to the shelter over the past year. Their customers donate premium toys and bones for shelter pets and staff routinely make special deliveries of goodies they've collected for us. They also provide giveaways and discount coupons for all of our adopters. But now Olde Towne is taking giving to a whole, new level.



A few months ago, with the support and guidance of General Manager Dixie Eng, the entire staff became Animal Shelter volunteers! Now, shelter pets get one-on-one attention from trained animal professionals who do everything from dog walking to grooming and bathing to enrichment and training. Cats and dogs that are well-socialized, clean and have had lots of exercise are more adoptable. Thank you, Olde Towne Pet Resort, for your lifesaving volunteer efforts!

Help Tinker, Tigger and Carrots Find a New Home for the Holidays

Tinker, Tigger and Carrots are three, 10-year-old brothers who are still looking for a home for the holidays.

They were surrendered to the shelter last month when their owner could no longer keep them. They're best friends and they love people almost as much as they love each other.

Senior cats are a great choice for adopters who want a cat that is litter box trained and is used to living in a home. And none of these guys will scratch your furniture because they're declawed!



Carrots, above, and Tinker, below.



Sullivan Finds His Perfect Adopter!

Ten-year-old Sullivan came to the shelter in October as a stray. This poor pooch was missing most of the hair on his body, most likely from a long-term, untreated flea allergy. He was underweight and had two tumors on his back. This poor Labrador retriever was depressed and lethargic. As soon as he was well enough, shelter staff sent him to the vet to be neutered and to have the tumors removed.



Following surgery, Sullivan began to come out of his shell, charming staff and volunteers with his cheerful, affectionate personality.

Although he became a shelter favorite, many weeks passed and no one adopted Sullivan. Perhaps because of his age or his missing hair, he was passed over time and time again. We posted his story and photos on Facebook and finally, after a long wait, his perfect adopter drove from Maryland to meet him. She told us she had seen him on Facebook and couldn't get him out of her mind. She brought her two other dogs to meet him, and he went home with his new family that day. Congratulations Sullivan!

Five Ways Our Friends Group Helped Shelter Pets This Year

1. They purchased more than **40 Kuranda beds** so our shelter cats and dogs have a soft place to lie. Search "shelter donations" on www.fairfaxcounty.gov to learn about donating a bed to a homeless pet!

2. Twelve macaw parrots were surrendered to the shelter in October. Two were very ill and needed immediate medical care. **The Friends provided the funds to treat these beautiful birds** so they could be placed in loving, forever homes.

5 Ways

3. They held a walk/run, a wine-tasting event and a golf tournament, which

combined **raised thousands of dollars to help homeless animals!**

4. They **provide collars and personalized tags for every adopted dog and cat.** Now all of our shelter pets leave with identification so that if they are ever lost, they can be easily returned home.

5. If you've ever seen our shelter dogs at an adoption event, you probably noticed the bright, yellow "adopt me!" vests they were wearing. Those **vests are handmade by one of our Friends board members!**

Learn more about the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter at www.fccas.org or find them on Facebook!

