



# Fairfax County Animal Shelter NEWSLETTER

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter)

First  
Issue!

April 2022

## Letter from the Director

Even though I've been on the job for less than three months, I already feel deeply connected to the staff and community that supports the lifesaving work of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FCAS). The month of March was busy with 241 pets' lives saved through adoption, transport or reunification, and 84 pets served through our community-based pet services events which included vaccinations, microchips, spay/neuter sign-up, and more.

Many pets come to us as strays. Our staff do an amazing job of using whatever clues a pet comes in with to reunite them with their family, but unfortunately many pets come to us with no identification or microchip which makes that process very difficult and, in some cases, impossible.



George, after being reunited with his owner.

George, a senior orange tabby cat with a big personality, came into our care after a resident found him wandering around an office park on February 8th. With no microchip or collar, we had little to go on to find George's home, so we moved George into a foster home while he received medical treatment. Two months later, a man came forward thinking another cat on our website was his, but after he shared pictures of his missing cat, we realized the cat's markings clearly matched George's! George's family was thrilled to find him and realized the office park where George was

found is where his family goes to work every day. So, George likely hitched a ride in the family car without anyone realizing. We are happy to report George is now back with his family, microchipped, living his best life as an indoor cat, and his joyriding days are in his rear-view mirror.

Please remember to microchip your pet and if you do lose (or find) a pet, please contact us immediately. For more information and resources, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/lostandfoundpets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/lostandfoundpets).

- Reasa Currier, *Director*

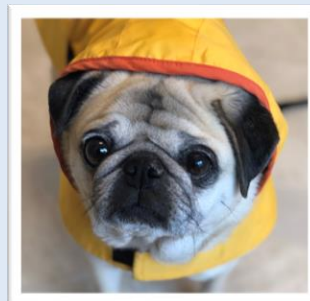
### What can you expect to see in the new FCAS Newsletter?

- Read about the latest news and events at the Shelter
- Hear amazing, funny, and awesome stories!
- Learn about lifesaving programs and services
- Get to know the hardworking staff and volunteers
- Get behavior and training advice from industry experts...and more!

## What to Do When Your Dog **Hates** the Rain

It's raining outside, and your dog is making it quite clear that going for a walk is not on her schedule for the day. She may even go to the door and behave as if she wants to go outside, but then high-tail it back to bed when she sees the weather.

We asked our very own Behavior and Enrichment Specialist, Randy Mouri, for advice on the matter. "I would keep a sharp eye out on the forecast and anytime it predicted rain, I would make sure I headed out for a walk prior to the rain starting. Then, as it started raining, I would continue the walk until the dog would go potty. And as soon as she did, I would head home. The reward being heading home after going potty in the rain." Avoid forcing your dog outside or pulling them on-leash as that will further create a negative association.



Randy added that, "Depending on how sensitive or averse to the rainy weather they may be, a properly fitted raincoat may help to ease some of your dog's discomfort." Check out *Facebook Marketplace* or *Nextdoor* for new or gently used inexpensive options!

# Program Spotlight: Office Cat Program

What do we do when a cat is scared, hissy, growling, or unhappy in the Shelter? We move them into an office, as part of our Office Cat Program! They get a larger condo, a quieter space, and more companionship in time spent with their human office mates.

The Office Cat Program started in 2016, when Shelter staff realized that some cats needed a place to relax and decompress, other than one of the typical cat condos found elsewhere in the Shelter.

One of the first Office Cats was Farrah, who was extremely vocal when she first arrived: growling, hissing, yowling, ears back—all signs of extreme fear, anxiety, and/or stress! We moved her into an office, and within minutes of entering the new space she was exploring, meowing, and purring nonstop! Farrah was adopted less than two weeks later.

Farrah in her office.



Usually, it takes only a few days in an office for stressed cats to feel much more relaxed and show their true individual personalities—which helps them become ready for adoption! Sometimes it's the office humans who introduce office cats to potential adopters, since they often know them best, having spent so much quality time with them. All available Office Cats have their photo and bio displayed in the main Cat Adoption Area and on our *Petango* page, and regular adoption process and requirements apply.

(For info on available pets and how to adopt, visit: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/adopt](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/adopt).)

The Office Cat Program started with just one office, and now includes up to five offices that can host cats in need of a new space. We are very proud of our Office Cat Program, which is one of many progressive programs designed to serve the individual behavior and health needs of cats who enter our Shelter. It's helped many, many cats since it began!



Farrah

## New Ride – Who Dis?

As fond as we were of our ancient Astro van, it was time to upgrade to a newer model with more reliable brakes. We now have two new vans, decked out with photos of pets who we've helped! We use these vans to transport pets to and from veterinary appointments, to pick up pets we're transferring in from partner organizations, and when we're out at community events. If you see our shiny new vans on the road, wave!



## VISIT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

-  [www.facebook.com/FairfaxCountyAnimalShelter](https://www.facebook.com/FairfaxCountyAnimalShelter)
-  [@fairfaxanimals](https://www.instagram.com/fairfaxanimals)
-  [fairfaxcountyanimalshelter](https://twitter.com/fairfaxcountyanimalshelter)

## Upcoming Happenings

### FCAS CLASSES

**Hiss & Make-Up: Bringing the Love Back to Your Multi-Cat Household**  
Webinar, Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

### FRIENDS' EVENTS

**Mustang Sally Brewing Event**  
Saturday, April 30

**PetDash Virtual 5k**  
April 30 – May 8

**Wine, Whiskers, and Wags (& Beer!)**  
Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>



*Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter* (Friends) is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit, fundraising partner of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Visit [www.fccas.org](http://www.fccas.org) for more information about Friends' events, news, and updates.

