



Back to School!

Fairfax County Animal Shelter

NEWSLETTER

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter

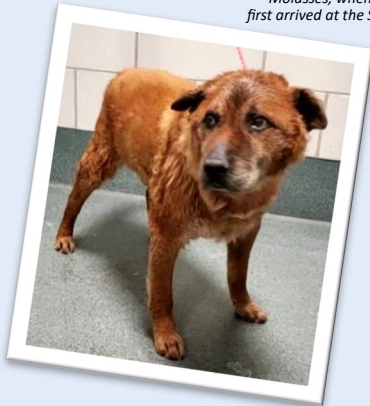
August 2022

Found, Fostered, ADOPTED A Story About Molasses

by Julie Schwartz, Adoption Counselor

Some dogs are extra special and touch the lives of everyone they meet. Molasses is one of those dogs. Besides being adorable with his fuzzy red coat, cute little ears, and soulful eyes, Molasses has the most amazing gentle and loving personality.

Molasses, when he first arrived at the Shelter



Molasses arrived at our shelter as a **stray in very poor condition**. He could barely walk, his coat was matted, and his head was held low because he was scared and didn't seem to understand where he was or what was happening to him. We made him comfy in his kennel, and waited to find his family, but they never came. I met Molasses when I arrived to work and saw him hanging out behind the front counter where my desk is. He came over to greet me, put his head in my lap, and looked up at me with his big brown eyes. My heart melted as he snuggled close and asked for attention.

I learned that Molasses was about 12 years old and had multiple health issues such as a **severe arthritis, a heart murmur**, and there were some concerns with his bloodwork. Due to his age and health issues, I was asked if I would consider bringing him home as a hospice foster. Of course, my family immediately agreed to take him home so he could be loved and spoiled.

(Cont'd.)

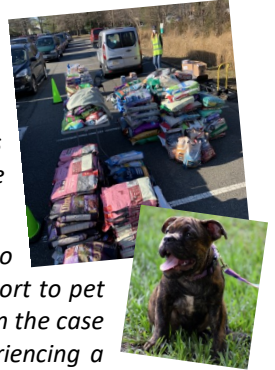
Letter from the Director

Traditionally, the animal shelter has been a place of last resort. Residents turn to the shelter when they've exhausted all other options. The staff at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter are working to change that. With the launch of our **Pet Assistance and Wellness Services (PAWS) Program**, our staff meet families with pets where they are...in their homes, neighborhoods, and communities to provide the services and resources that keep pets together with their people. To date, the PAWS Program has served 450 pets across five Pet Services Events and 102 pets through the Spay/Neuter Program. Annually, the Low-Cost Clinics serve approximately 600-800 pets.

This community-based model enables us to **identify problems early and intervene** to provide support to pet owners before it becomes a crisis. For example, it is often the case that pet owners will surrender an animal who is experiencing a medical emergency after deferring veterinary care due to the cost. By hosting wellness clinics in communities with little access to veterinary care, our staff can build relationships with pet owners and provide additional resources when they need it.

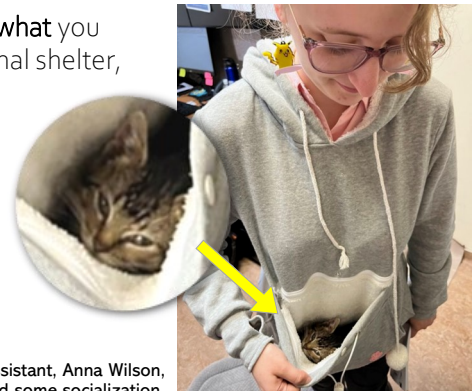
The success of this program is centered on the belief that **pets are family**. We are linking arms with other Fairfax County departments, non-profits, and community organizations that serve families to make sure no one is falling between the cracks. Last month, we had the pleasure of participating in an event at the Audubon Estates in Alexandria alongside many other agencies and organizations. Residents were able to receive their COVID booster while also picking up a bag of pet food. We are excited to grow this program to support even more families with pets.

- Reasa D. Currier,
Director, Fairfax County Department of Animal Sheltering



Around the Shelter

You never know **who** or **what** you will encounter at an animal shelter, but you also have to wonder **where** you will run into someone—or in this instance—**where** you will run into someone who is **wearing** someone else.



Administrative Assistant, Anna Wilson,
gives a scared kitten a ride and some socialization.



When Molasses arrived at my house, he made friends with our senior dog, who was adopted from FCAS, and he soon acted like he had lived in our home forever. He was happy, but he was still a sick boy. I had to spoon-feed him, and my family members each took turns sleeping on the couch with him the first week to make sure he was okay.

With each passing day, Molasses did better and better. He started wanting to go for short walks, and we discovered he enjoyed barking at passing cars! We gave him yummy treats, occasional *Puppuccinos* from *Starbucks*, and did everything we could to make every day special. I adored Molasses and enjoyed every minute with him, but I saw how excited he became when he met new people. I knew he adjusted quickly to new situations, and that he would be very happy with a new family if someone would give him a chance.

After discussing his progress with our foster coordinator, we made Molasses available for adoption. We knew it would be a challenge to find someone willing to adopt a senior dog who still had some health issues, but if we found the right person, Molasses could have a



forever home and I could foster future dogs in need. Not too long after he was made available for adoption, I was contacted by a potential adopter who was interested in Molasses. The adopter had experience with senior dogs with medical issues and wanted to help another one in need. I brought Molasses to the shelter to meet her, and he walked straight to her, plopped on his side, and asked for belly rubs. It was obvious that this was a perfect match and they instantly loved each other, so Molasses was adopted then and there!

Since his adoption, I have received regular updates and photos of Molasses (renamed *Chow*) enjoying this new chapter of his life. He is the center of attention. His new mom brings him to work with her, takes him on outings, and even bought him a cart so he doesn't have to walk when he gets tired. He sleeps with her at night, and he has brought her so much joy. She told me that he did very well with his vet visit, he still likes barking at cars, and he always wags his tail when he sees her. Whatever amount of time Molasses has with his new mom will be quality time, and they are making every day count.



Senior dogs like Molasses have so much love to give, and if you open your heart and home to one for fostering or adoption, you will be rewarded tenfold with grateful kisses and tail wags. •

Upcoming Happenings

An Introduction to Backyard Chicken Care

Sunday, August 14th

1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Training Room

Low-Cost Vaccination & Microchip Clinic

Sunday, August 28th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Parking Lot

So You Want to Adopt a Dog

Sunday, September 4th

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Training Room

Pet Services Event

Saturday, September 10th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Sherwood Regional Library
Alexandria, VA 22306

Putting for Pets Captain's Choice Golf Tournament Hosted by Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Monday, September 19th

Chantilly National Golf and Country Club
Centreville, VA 20120



PUTTING FOR PETS

Captain's Choice Golf Tournament

Monday, September 19, 2022, shotgun start at 10 AM
Chantilly National Golf and Country Club
14901 Braddock Rd, Centreville, VA 20120

8:30 AM: Registration Begins
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Light Breakfast/Snacks to Go
9:40 AM: Putting Contest
10:00 AM: Shotgun start
Return to the Clubhouse after play for Dinner & Awards

REGISTER EARLY, LAST YEARS TOURNAMENT SOLD OUT!

FALL FOR THE SHELTER PETS ONLINE SILENT AUCTION
Opens Saturday, September 10, 2022 at noon



Browse our eclectic online silent auction from the comfort of your own home! From experiences, to gift baskets, jewelry and more!

\$150 Per Golfer Includes:

- 18 holes of golf
- Generous swag goodie bag
- Breakfast, snacks to go, & dinner
- One drink ticket during play
- Chances to win prizes for raffle, putting contest, longest drive, and closest to the pin

Don't play golf but want to join the fun? Join us for dinner - \$35!

Register now for sponsorships & tickets!



bit.ly/puttingforpets2022

Singles or groups of fewer than four players are always welcome and will be paired with other players for an enjoyable round. To keep the pace, we play a single bogie stroke limit on each hole, therefore the max score on any hole is one over par.

UPDATE: South County Police Station & Animal Shelter

The South County Police Station and Animal Shelter project is well underway! The facility being built on Lorton Road, located between the intersections of Workhouse and Hooes Roads, will become the second facility for the Department of Animal Sheltering.



"The new facility, will not only allow us to substantially grow the geographic reach and impact of our work for the residents of Fairfax County," said Reasa Currier, Director, Fairfax County Department of Animal Sheltering. "We will be able to create even more families through adoption, provide a hub for essential services from behavior and training support, veterinary medical care, pet supplies, and other critical services that help keep pets together with their families."



The building is designed with sustainability features, including infrastructure for solar panels and electric vehicle charging stations; energy efficient systems and materials that promote improved indoor air quality; tree protection and preservation measures; and will include native plants and a progressive bird-friendly design. It will be a beautiful and welcoming facility for both people and animals!

CONTINUING EDUCATION @ The Fairfax County Animal Shelter

CLASS: An Introduction to Backyard Chicken Care

Have you thought about adding chickens to your home? Do you already have chickens and want to learn how to better care for them?

Join us at the *Fairfax County Animal Shelter* on August 14th where local expert Kelly Rutkowski from *Adopt a Bird Network* will present an *Introduction to Backyard Chicken Care*.

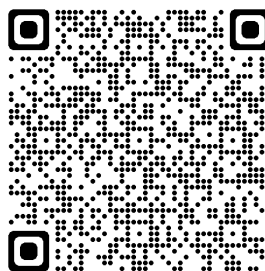
This class is for anyone who is living in Fairfax County and surrounding areas who has an interest in or who currently has a flock of chickens.

Attendees will learn about:

- The basics of chicken care including types of housing, nutrition, predator proofing, and management
- Disease & injury prevention
- Local laws regarding backyard chickens
- Post-adoption procedures, e.g. quarantine, common health issues, taming, and introducing to existing flock
- Behavior & enrichment
- The benefits of adopting roosters



PLUS, you'll meet some real-live chickens!



Register Here!



WE MISSED YOU!
THE SHELTER IS
NOW OPEN FOR
ADOPTIONS ON
A WALK-IN
BASIS!

