



Fairfax County Animal Shelter NEWSLETTER

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter

June 2022

Letter from the Director

We recently celebrated the adoption of **Augustine, a timid black rabbit, who spent almost a year in our care**. Augustine came to us when his family could no longer care for him. Initially, Augustine was shut down and extremely fearful of humans. Fortunately, we have a special team of volunteers who spend their time caring for our small animals. This special population of animals includes rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, mice, hamsters, and birds. Our "small" volunteers give the animals a much-needed break from their cages that includes opportunities for the animals to explore, climb, dig, run, play, and enjoy treats.



Our smalls volunteers immediately started working with Augustine and slowly but surely earned his trust. Augustine quickly discovered the joys of eating blueberries, receiving head scratches, and playing with stacking cups. **Although Augustine made great progress in the shelter, we knew spending time in a home environment was just what he needed** to progress. Augustine's foster mom reported to us that with a little extra space, Augustine enjoyed zooming around the living room.

Shortly before his one-year anniversary of coming into our care, Augustine was adopted! This summer, FCAS has experienced an overwhelming number of small animals being surrendered. We are unsure of what factors have contributed to the surge, but we are incredibly grateful to our smalls volunteers for rolling up their sleeves to ensure each animal, no matter how small, is treated as an individual. **FCAS is currently beyond the capacity for small animals**. Please adopt and encourage others to as well.

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

Where Will You Find
FCAS This Month?

**BRADD*CK 2022
BARK**

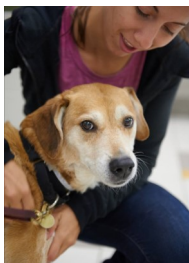
Hosted by Celebrate Fairfax
& Supervisor James Walkinshaw

Date: Sunday, June 12th
Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Lake Accotink Park
Springfield, VA



Program Feature: Veterinary Assistance Grant Program

Our goal at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is to ensure that every family can experience the love and companionship of an animal, and our Veterinary Assistance Program is helping us do just that by keeping pets in their homes. Thanks to the generosity of our nonprofit partner, the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (Friends), we can help eligible Fairfax County residents who are struggling to afford non-routine veterinary care for their cat or dog.



Evelyn Grieve, President and Co-founder of Friends, explains, "Without our generous pet loving donor community this program would not be possible. This is a targeted program to help the most vulnerable pet owners receive the help they need to ensure that their pet can remain in their loving forever home."

When Diamond, a sweet 7-year old dog, broke out in a bad rash, her mom Jatana was so worried about her, but the cost of a vet visit was out of reach for her. Thanks to the grant funds, we were able to treat Diamond for her allergic reaction, remove a benign growth, and spay Diamond, all at once. Jatana was so relieved that Diamond got the care that she needed. She reached out to us and said, "Good morning! I want to thank you personally, I am literally in tears that my dog was able to be checked to ensure she's in good health. I am honored that you have granted service for Diamond to be seen. Thanks again, have a fantastic day."

This grant is open to Fairfax County residents who receive government assistance and whose pet has a health issue causing discomfort or distress. The shelter will help owners book an appointment with our veterinary partner and will cover up to \$500 of care. If you know someone who can benefit from this program, have them call or [email](mailto:info@ffcas.org) us for more information!

Friends has been the Shelter's dedicated nonprofit partner since 2006. Visit www.ffcas.org to learn more about their programs and how you can help.

CAR SAFETY & YOUR PET

It will probably shock most dog owners who use a carrier or crate designed for car travel to discover that the vast majority of **car restraints are not designed to keep their dog safe** in the event of an actual car accident.



According to the Center for Pet Safety (CPS), manufacturers of pet products, including car travel products, are not required to test them. Many crates, carriers, and harnesses that market themselves as “crash tested” would not provide enough protection in the event of an accident. “Crash tested” doesn’t even mean the product passed a crash test; it means that it went through *some* sort of trial. The actual method, the results—none of that has to be shared.

The CPS (Center for Pet Safety) is a Reston, Virginia based non-profit research and advocacy organization that is 100% independent of the pet products industry and conducts crash tests for various dog safety products. They established the organization in 2011 after realizing that there were no standards or protocols for testing pet safety devices.

Only three harnesses passed CPS’s testing: *Sleepypod’s Clickit Sport*, *Sleepypod’s ClickitTerrain*, and the *ZuGoPet The Rocketeer Pack*. As for crates and carriers, with the smaller options working for cats and some small animals as well, *Diggs*, *Gunner*, and *Sleepypod* were among several brands that made the cut. It’s important to note that none of these options are particularly economical ones.



Ultimately, some form of restraint is better than nothing at all. As unpleasant as it is to imagine, in a serious accident, an unrestrained pet will become an instant projectile, potentially injuring you, other passengers, and themselves; so if one of the mentioned options is out of your reach, use the best harness, carrier, or crate option that you have, and make sure your dog is comfortable with whatever option you choose.

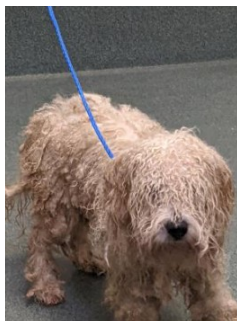


Avoid situating them in a “crumple zone” or in a seat where airbags might deploy — these areas will be different in every car, so check your vehicle’s manual.

If it sounds a lot like when you had to install your kid’s car seat and you toiled over where and how to install it, then you’re going about it the right way. Be safe, everyone!

Makeover of the Month

Sweet “Quasi” came to FCAS in desperate need of a makeover and haircut. Once “Quasi” found his new look, he was so much more comfortable and confident. It took no time at all for him to get adopted!



Before



After



CONTINUING EDUCATION @ The Fairfax County Animal Shelter

CLASS:

No One **WARNED** the **Dog**

Preparing Families
& Pets for a Newborn Baby



Congratulations, family! You’re expecting a tiny human! You’ve done it all: prepared the baby nursery, listened to the parenting podcasts, purchased all the baby gear, packed any necessary overnight bags, narrowed your potential list of baby names down to two — you are ready! But wait...has anyone prepared the dog for the baby’s arrival?

*Unfortunately, most parents don’t realize until after the new baby is already home that their first “baby,” **their dog, is having a hard time adjusting to the presence of a new family member.** Luckily, there are things that dog owners can do to help their dogs safely adapt to having a new addition.*

*Join us on **Sunday, July 24th at 1 p.m.** at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter for **No One Warned the Dog: Preparing Families & Pets for a Newborn Baby.** During this **free class**, we will discuss:*

- *How to Identify the skills your dog may need to interact safely with the new baby.*
- *Things that you can do in advance of baby’s arrival to get your dog used to the upcoming changes.*
- *Ways that you can set up your home to ensure safe and stress-free interactions for everyone.*

...and more! PLUS...

There will be time for Q & A!

Point your phone’s camera here to register on Eventbrite

