



Fairfax County Animal Shelter NEWSLETTER

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter

November 2022

Letter from the Director

National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week takes place November 6th through 12th and is dedicated to celebrating and showing gratitude towards the lifesaving work provided by animal shelters and their hard-working staff nationwide. We appreciate the contributions of all our staff every day, but this month, three of Fairfax County Animal Shelter's long-time staff members received **Outstanding Performance Awards** from Fairfax County. These awards are provided to recognize employees who perform the duties and responsibilities of their positions in an outstanding manner, and whose work is well above expectations.

Raynell "Ray" Long is part of our customer care team, has been with us 36 years, and greets everyone with a warm smile and kindness. Ray was recognized for aiding people facing vulnerability. She tirelessly assists community members and animals, and specializes in helping residents find solutions other than surrendering their pets, making them and their animals feel cared for. Deborah "Deb" Baxter, who has been part of the animal care team for 8 years, was recognized for leading the animal care team during a challenging summer season, including managing a large intake of 85 cats with excellence. Joseph "Joey" Kuhar is also a member of the animal care team and has been with our staff for 10 years. Joey was recognized for going above and beyond as we struggled with staffing shortages to ensure our animals continued to receive exceptional care. We are incredibly grateful to all our staff who roll up their sleeves every day to serve the animals and people of our community.



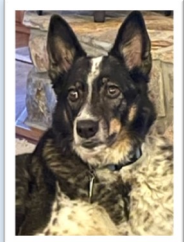
(L-R) Supervisor Penny Gros, Joseph Kuhar, and County Executive Bryan Hill at Awards Ceremony

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

The Road to Redemption: Road Dog's Story

By Evelyn Grieve
President, Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter*

I would like to tell you a story about how one rescued dog, Road Dog, enriched so many lives when the community came together to help him.



In 2014, a young mixed-breed dog was roaming through the town of Vienna. Eventually he found his way to C & C Garage, Inc. The dog was very fearful, but the employees of the garage slowly got him to eat the food they left for him, and in the evenings, they allowed him to stay in the garage. The employees frequently tried to approach him and gain his trust, but he always kept his distance. The dog became the garage mascot, and they all fell in love with him. They named him, "Road Dog."

One day Rita Altman, the Vice President of Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, noticed Road Dog at the garage and inquired about how she could help him. They all agreed that it was time to bring him to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter so that he could get the care he needed. After several attempts, over several visits, the employees of the garage and Rita coaxed Road Dog into Rita's car and she brought him to the Shelter.

There, Randy Mouri, (who was a volunteer at the time but is now a Shelter employee), was working with shelter dogs with special behavioral needs. Randy worked on Road Dog's social

skills and on gaining his trust. Randy fostered Road Dog so that he could provide him with the care he needed. Road Dog flourished under Randy's care and in early 2015, he was put up for adoption.

The Shelter knew that it would take a special person or family to adopt him. Joanna Harris and her family were the special people who Road Dog chose to be his family. Although there was more work to be done to help Road Dog, they were there for him and he was there for them. Road Dog remained wary of strangers, but his unconditional love for Joanna and her daughter was always apparent.

Road Dog visited the C & C Garage this past summer, where he was happy to see his old friends. Road Dog, RD, Roadie and Handsome, as he was affectionately referred to, passed away this August, surrounded by all who loved him.

In his memory, Road Dog's grandparents, Susan and Paul Harris, have donated a matching gift pledge to Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in the amount of \$5,000.



Road Dog, at home with Rio

You Can
Help!

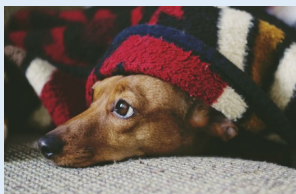
In celebration of **Giving Tuesday**, on November 29th, **The Harris Family will match all donations (up to \$5,000)** so that other pets can receive the care and compassion they need to find their loving home. Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter invites you to visit [this link](#) to lend your support.

House Guests + Your **Anxious** Dog

This holiday season, you may be welcoming guests into your home for an evening or for a few days. For some dogs, it's no big deal—the more people to give them love, the better! But for other dogs, new people in the home can be frightening. Here are some tips for managing a shy or anxious dog around house guests.

Give Them a Safe Place

A strategically placed dog crate or dog bed can be a place of refuge for a dog when the house is abuzz with overwhelming activity. Just make sure that whatever space you choose is one that your dog actually likes and can relax in. If your dog has never been crate-trained or separated from you, don't crate or isolate them in another room for the first time when guests arrive (unless a separation is absolutely necessary) as that could create even more stress for your dog. When they're in their safe place, give your dog a special chew toy or his favorite type of treat that is reserved for special occasions.



Don't Force Your Dog to Say "Hello"

If your dog is showing signs of stress or actively avoiding an interaction with a guest, like hiding behind you, don't pull him out and force him to say, "hi." He's doing everything in his power, like showing you with his body language that he's not comfortable, while trying to put distance between himself and the thing that he's afraid of—in this instance, a well-intentioned guest. Instead, **have your guest casually toss a treat at the floor near your dog.** If he takes it, great. If he doesn't, that's fine too. The point is, you're not forcing your dog to be petted but you are creating a positive association (in your dog's mind) between food and houseguest.

Supervise Interactions—Especially Those with Children

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 40% of [dog-bite victims](#) are children and adolescents. **A majority of those bites occur outside of the home, with dogs who belong to friends or relatives.** Children are at a higher risk of being bitten for several reasons. If your *Nervous Nelly* isn't used to being around children and your guest list includes young kids, play it safe and either have your dog put away in their own room where the children cannot access it or have someone responsible for actively supervising the dog—and we stress *actively*.

Be Mindful of Exits

A shy or anxious dog may seize the opportunity of an open and unattended front door as your sister-in-law or uncle brings in luggage from the car. **Use signage to warn visitors of an escape-happy pooch** and if there are times that you know there will be lots of foot-traffic, make sure your dog is secured on-leash or in their crate. ●

Looking to Help the Shelter this Holiday Season? Here are some ideas...

MAKE FLEECE BLANKETS

Our dogs and cats love to have soft blankets for cuddling! You can make blankets without sewing by cutting two pieces of fleece of equal size, cutting fringe all the way around and tying the fringe pieces together. We especially need ones that are 2' x 3' ft. (24" x 36" in.).



WEAVE A CARDBOARD MAT

Collect as many empty toilet paper rolls as you can. Once you have a good supply, weave together a mat that can be used for small animals. Click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to make them.



HOST A SUPPLY DRIVE

Collecting items from our Amazon [wish-list](#) is a GREAT way to support the animals in our care! Whether it's a new comfortable bed for a cat or a puzzle toy for a dog, donations help the shelter immensely. Then there are items from around the house such as newspaper, gently used towels, and empty toilet paper rolls you can collect and donate! Visit our [donations](#) page for more information or check out the list below!

Items That Are Almost Always Needed:

Unopened Dog & Cat Food

Zuke's® Brand Dog Treats

Animal Waste Bags

Chew Toys for Small Animals

Extra-Large Kongs®

FELIWAY® Classic Calming Diffuser Refills

Fleece Blankets

KMR® Kitten Milk Replacement Powder

Low-Sugar Treats for Small Animals

New Cat Toys

Nylabones®

Nylon Leashes, 1" x 6 Ft.

Small Cardboard Cat Scratchers

Treat Sticks for Parakeets & Cockatiels



Upcoming Classes!

So You Want to Adopt a Dog

Sunday, November 6th

12:00 p.m.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter

In-Person

Financial and Legacy Planning

Hosted by Friends of the

Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Thursday, November 3rd

7:00 p.m.

Online

*Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is the nonprofit 501(c)(3) fundraising partner organization of the Shelter. Friends provides the funding for emergency and other life-saving medical treatment, dental procedures, parasite prevention, equipment and supplies, pet enrichment items, and so much more! By donating to Friends, you are helping the animals at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

