



Fairfax County Animal Shelter NEWSLETTER

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter

September 2022

Letter from the Director

Three months ago, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FCAS) received two senior dogs, Peace and Aztec, after their owners could no longer care for them. Staff and volunteers immediately noticed **there was something special** about these two shepherd brothers.

Their happy-go-lucky disposition meant they were always up for an adventure. Our volunteers took them to assisted living facilities to brighten the day of residents. Peace and Aztec loved every minute of the attention they received. They also were the guests of honor at a fundraiser hosted by the Friends of Fairfax County Animal Shelter, where they charmed business owners and comforted a young child receiving treatment for cancer.



Weeks turned into months that Peace and Aztec were in our care, and we couldn't figure out why these wonderful brothers weren't getting adopted. Every time someone would pass their kennel, the brothers would immediately get up from their beds and eagerly greet visitors. **They desperately wanted a home of their own.**

When NBC4/Telemundo came to FCAS to film a promotion for **Clear the Shelters**, our fee waived adoption event, they asked if there were any special dogs they could profile in their segment. We immediately introduced them to Peace and Aztec. The segment on Peace and Aztec aired four times and the very next day, a wonderful family came to adopt them.

Peace and Aztec are now enjoying naps on a sofa and leisurely walks with their parents around a neighborhood park.



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



SPECIAL FEATURE: The Beagles, They're Kind of a Big Deal

In early August, the Shelter welcomed 16 beagles into our care. These beagles were part of a massive effort, spearheaded by the Humane Society of the United States, who coordinated the rescue of 4,000 beagles from a now-defunct breeding facility. We were one of many shelters and rescues across 27 states who could help these very deserving dogs!

Our first group included six puppies, and ten adults ranging in age from one to seven years. The puppies were typical adorable little puppies, very boisterous, playful, and friendly.

The adults were a different story – they were very shy, had no idea how to walk on leashes and needed to be carried everywhere, and didn't even know that they were allowed to lay on the beds in their kennels. But they clearly wanted to be friends with people, and with patience and some gentle words they slowly started to open up. It may seem silly, but it's like they knew their lives had changed for the better!

(Cont'd.)

(Cont'd.) The Beagles: They're Kind of a Big Deal

The improvements were gradual at first. A couple beagles started laying on their beds, or on towels we placed on the floor. Some slow tail wags began when staff would approach their kennels. While at first the adults ignored Kongs and other treats, after just a few days the beagles began holding the treats in their mouths while wagging their tails. Not eating them, but at least holding them proudly! And then they started to figure out how to walk on leashes. And finally – finally! – one by one they started to perform the quintessential beagle bark. They were really starting to feel better!!

We knew that they still had a ways to go, but their new families could and should be the ones to continue this journey with them. So, all 16 of the beagles were bathed, spayed/neutered, and made ready for adoption. And within a couple days of being available for adoption, all 16 of the beagles had found their new families! We are so happy for each of them, to go from their former existence into rich, vibrant lives as part of their own families.

And, we were thrilled to welcome another 10 beagles to our shelter in early September! These ten went straight to foster homes, and will be available for adoption soon. Even better is that these ten were among the very last of the total 4000 beagles rescued. That's 4000 beagles living the good life now, thanks to shelters, rescues, donors, fosters, and adopters across the country. We are so glad to be a part of this amazing effort. ●



Upcoming Happenings

So You Want to Adopt a Dog

Sunday, September 4th
12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Training Room

Pet Assistance and Wellness Services (PAWS) Program

Free Pet Services Event for Dogs and Cats

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

All About Roosters Workshop

Sunday, October 2nd
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Training Room



CLEAR THE SHELTERS

Animal shelters across the country teamed up with NBC and Telemundo stations to find loving homes for shelter pets for the *Clear The Shelters* adoption campaign.

On Saturday, August 27th, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter celebrated *Clear the Shelters* and **waived adoption fees** on all adoptable pets.

A line of adopters had formed before the adoption center's doors opened and it was game-on once the Shelter opened.



In total, **36 pets were adopted** at the one-day Clear the Shelter event, including 9-year-old Bella, a timid cat whose owner had passed away; she had been in our care for seven months!

Also among the lucky pets to go home was staff and volunteer favorite, Roxy, an older girl who was waiting for the right family to take her home. •

In the Community: Humane Education

Staff from our Outreach team visited the Fairfax County Park Authority's Animal Vets Camp at Ellanor Lawrence Park.

Campers learned about the Shelter, proper small animal husbandry, and ways they can support shelter pets — plus, they got to **meet some of our smallest adoptable pets** — a trio of guinea pigs and Cinderella, the ferret!



CLASS: So You Want to Adopt a Dog

Walking into the dog kennels can be an overwhelming experience for potential adopters. Some families may have looked at the adoptable dogs online before coming in and have no doubt about who they want to adopt — but most families are not as certain. For the ones who do find a dog that they fall in love with — what comes next?

Enter, "So You Want to Adopt a Dog," Fairfax County Animal Shelter's free class aimed at helping new, potential or recent dog adopters. The class will be offered the first Sunday of every month. We will cover many topics, including:

- Selecting a dog that fits your lifestyle and expectations
- Tips for helping your dog adapt to their new environment
- What to expect at first, in a few days, and in a few weeks
- Introducing your new dog to existing pets in the home
- Behavior & training basics

There will be an opportunity for guests to submit questions when registering and throughout the class, plus, we'll talk about adoptable dogs and see if they're a good fit for your family!

Point your smart phone camera here
to see **next available class & to register!**

