



Fairfax County Animal Shelter

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



20
Community Outreach Events



46,020
pounds of pet food distributed to families experiencing financial hardship



189
Post-Adoption Training Sessions

92%
Live Release Rate

Billingsley's Story

Billingsley came to us as a stray in June 2021. When no one came forward to reclaim him, we thought his old life was a finished chapter and he would need to start anew with a different family. Staff and volunteers doted on him, and he quickly became a favorite due to his easy-going temperament and constant smile.

Days, then weeks, then months passed, and still Billingsley waited patiently to be adopted. And then we got a call in late December... from his original family! They'd been searching for Billingsley after a friend lost him, and finally found him on our webpage. Just before the holidays, Billingsley—whose real name is Tyson—returned home.



Mice, Mice Everywhere!

It's fairly common to have quite a few pets born in our care, and our foster families are used to taking in pregnant cats, dogs, guinea pigs, and rabbits. But 2021 was a banner year for... mice! We're not sure what caused this phenomenon or whether it was related to the pandemic, but between the 41 mice who were surrendered and the 45 born in our care, we were overflowing with mice all year! Luckily, they're fairly easy to care for and are wonderful little pets, so it was fun setting up enriching habitats for them and covering basically every horizontal space with their aquariums, giving our staff and fosters plenty of mice experience, and of course – seeing them get adopted!



882

Spay/Neuter surgeries performed on shelter pets

636

Community Cats received spay/neuter surgeries & vaccinations



128

Animals moved from crisis to care through our Transport Program

3,060

Total Pet Intake



220

Volunteers

7,203

Volunteer Hours

182

Fosters

2,560

lives saved through Adoption & Reunification



Groucho the Not-a-Grouch

FCAS treats every animal as an individual and sometimes animals need specialized care to adjust to life in the shelter. Groucho got his name because of his tiny moustache, and because he was a bit grumpy. Groucho needed a few weeks in a staff office to decompress. Soon we were able to see his true personality, and what a big personality it was. We discovered he loved company and curling up in our staff's laps as they worked.

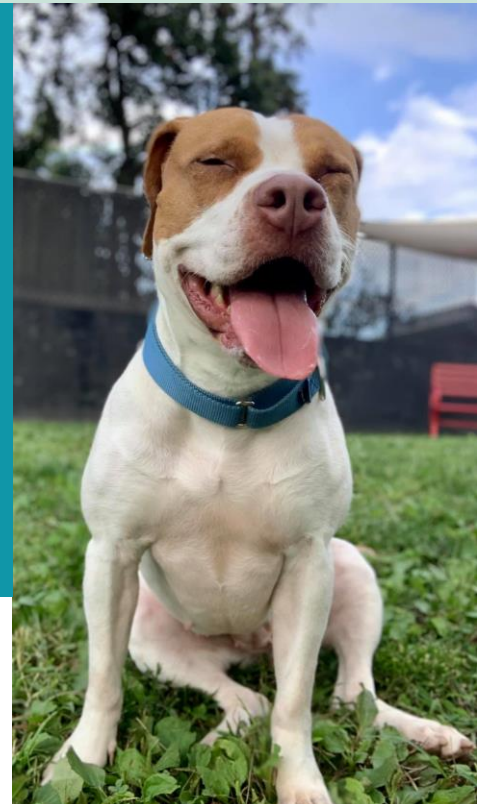
It took over six months for Groucho to be adopted, but it was time well spent, allowing him to relax so he could show his best self to his new family. We're very proud of the work we're able to do for cats like Groucho, in recognizing when cats are stressed or afraid and just need that decompression time to start to show their true personalities—and to help them get adopted!



Loved by Many Families: Puff's Story

Puff's story may have a sad beginning, but don't worry, there's a happy ending. Puff was found tied to a tree with a note that said, "I can fetch, sit, lay, give paw and double paw, know the word 'bone,' my family's deported." It was clear Puff's family loved her and did what they could to provide some information that might help her find *another* loving home.

Our staff, volunteers, and fosters quickly fell in love with Puff; she was always so happy to see everyone! Between the big hugs, giant smile, wiggly wagging, and adventurous and loyal spirit, we were surprised that it took over six months for her to be adopted. But sometimes, good things are worth waiting for, and Puff and her new family are a fantastic match. Puff certainly had plenty of friends while she was in our care—ones who indulged her squirrel-watching hobby—but now she's living the good life with her new family.



Find FCAS Online!

/fairfaxcountyanimalshelter

@fairfaxanimals

@fairfaxcountyanimalshelter