

ALMOST HOME PET ADOPTION CENTER

Humane Society / SPCA of Nelson County



29 Stagebridge Road Lovingson, VA 22949 434-263-7722

GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO LIVE



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Please visit our website at www.nelsonspca.org



Summer 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

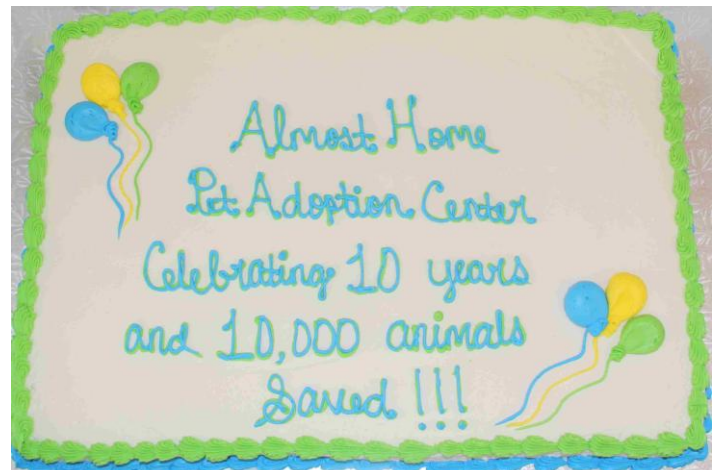
Dear Friends,

April 26th was a glorious day! The sun shone brightly on the happy crowd of well-wishers that came out to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Almost Home Pet Adoption Center and the 10,000 animals saved since the facility opened on April 24, 2004.

Past and present HS/SPCA Board members and volunteers, staff and supporters had the opportunity to glimpse highlights of the Humane Society's history, beginning in 1979 up to the present time, from posters hung on the kennel fencing. The posters provided a visual storyboard of the amazing progress accomplished over the years, for which we are very grateful.

Although they may not have been recognized out of uniform, Nelson County Animal Control Officers Theresa Brooks (Animal Control Supervisor) and Kevin Wright, accompanied by his wife, joined with us in the festivities and attested to another cause for celebration. Because of the HS/SPCA and the great team of current Animal Control Officers working together (Kelly Giles was not able to be there), all non-aggressive animals entering the Nelson County Animal Control Facility are being saved. Nelson County may now be considered a no-kill community. This is an achievement that only about 8 communities in the state of Virginia can claim.

Author Kay Pfaltz was on hand to do a book signing for her latest book, "Flash's Song," about her dog Flash. She graciously donated proceeds from the books sold that day to Almost Home. The dogs and cats enjoyed all the extra attention they received and a special-needs cat was adopted, too.



Icing on the cake: 10,000 animals saved

The HS/SPCA is pleased to announce a new reason it has to celebrate. An opportunity for future expansion has been presented to us through the purchase of the house next door to Almost Home on 4 acres of land. We have secured an interest-free loan, and with your help we hope to be debt-free in the not too distant future. If you are in a position to send a donation for the expansion, in addition to your regular support, we would be most grateful! We took pause to celebrate the growth of the past 10 years and look forward to many more good things happening in the next 10 years.

Sincerely,

Bette Grahame

Bette Grahame, President

Fate Steps In for Maude

Do you believe in fate? Maude does. Maude is an elderly stray cat that was transferred from Nelson County Animal Control to Almost Home when no one claimed her. She was thin but lively and would not be ignored. She kept reaching through her cage and meowing loudly. How do you walk away from that? The vet had listed her as 10+, but we realized she was probably at least 15. She was already spayed, so she had apparently been cared for some time in her life. But she had a crooked back leg, the result of a break that healed on its own, indicating that she had been on her own, too.

We all agreed that Maude would most likely live out her final years at Almost Home. We treated her like a queen, fixing her the fluffiest of beds, which she loved to melt into and take long, contented naps on. We would all bring her treats and different flavors of cat food hoping she would eat lots of it. We realized that she would eat a little more if you loved on her and talked to her while she ate. Janet Cabrera, wife of HS/SPCA Board member Tom Cabrera, who spends a lot of time petting the cats at Almost Home and keeps a close watch on them for signs of illness, contributed funds to have blood work done that resulted in a diagnosis of hypothyroidism and medicine. Then fate stepped in. One morning before anyone had arrived at the shelter, a dedicated volunteer, Marge Oram, came to pick up two cats to take them to Helping Hands in Richmond for low-cost dental care. She took the two cats labeled for transport. The evening before was busy at the shelter, and Maude was labeled instead of Maureen, who was supposed to go. When they got to the clinic, the paperwork listed a black and white cat, but Maude is a tiger stripe. When Helping Hands called, we asked if Maude could stay with them until the other cat was ready to be picked up. While there, Maude worked her same magic as she had here. One of the vet techs fell in love with her and adopted her! We all miss you Maude, but wish you the best.

— By Fonda Bell



A wrong label led to a new home for Maude.



It's a whole new world for the animals at Amy Swope's Blue Ridge Canine Services.

New Beginnings

Those of you who follow our shelter will remember the widely publicized animal-cruelty case in 2011 that resulted in Almost Home taking custody of 8 severely neglected and traumatized dogs from a property on Rockfish Valley Highway. They are all in loving homes now, and we stay in close contact with their new owners.

In September 2012, the property was sold to Amy Swope, who was determined to replace its sad history with a bright new future. She's now doing just that as the owner of Blue Ridge Canine Services.

Amy worked for over 5 years in South Africa, Iraq, and Afghanistan, training Explosive Detection Dogs (EDDs) for the departments of defense and state. When she decided to come home, she searched at length for the perfect location for a property to begin her new business. When told of the history of this property, she decided she would honor the memories of the dogs who had died there by offering a good life to the dogs and other animals that would live there.

Amy and her family and friends have put in many long hours to get to this point. Among other things, they had to clean several inches of excrement from the floors. They also made the sad discovery, while cleaning the yard, of the remains of 18 more dogs. She buried them in the corner of her yard under a big shade tree. She plans to purchase a marker so they will not be forgotten. In her yard now are two EDD dogs, a few companion dogs, a neighbor's dog hanging out for the day, two goats and some chickens. The yard and the house look so inviting. Finally, happiness has replaced all the sadness.

Amy is in the process of completing a boarding and training facility that will be open to the public. Currently she is able to board a limited number of dogs.

If interested you can contact her at:

amy.swope@yahoo.com.

She is conveniently located near the Wintergreen resort. She has also offered to foster and train dogs for Almost Home to help them find their forever homes! We look forward to working with Amy and wish her the very best in her new business.

— By Fonda Bell

Great Wine for a Great Cause

This past April, former employee and longtime foster Deena Hamsch and her husband, Karl, opened Virginia's first organic vineyard. Loving Cup Vineyard and Winery is located off of Rt. 29 in North Garden.

Inspired by their love of shelter dogs, Karl and Deena named their rosé the Dudley Nose Rosé, a Dudley Nose being the pink nose on a dog.

"A Dudley Nose is the bane of breeders," Deena explains, "but we know it's the sign of a good mutt!"

Hoping to draw attention to the great work done at Almost Home, Loving Cup will donate \$2 for every bottle of the Dudley Nose Rosé sold. This wine is dry and fruity, and can be purchased at the winery tasting room Friday to Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. A fundraiser for Almost Home is also being planned at the winery for late summer; for more info: www.lovingcupwine.com

LOVING CUP Vineyard & Winery



2013
Dudley Nose Rosé
VIRGINIA

The dog pictured is Angel, who was rescued by Wendy Harper in Afton.



The Pet Adoption Center had a perfect day on April 26 for its 10th anniversary.

Adoption Center Celebrates 10 Years



At left, President Bette Grahame and former board member Marybeth Matthews, with Little Lady and Gonzo. Above, 'pupcakes' made by Al Williamson. Below, the HS/SPCA history on posters.



Look for Us at Lockn' Music Festival

This year Almost Home hopes to be selected for the "Participation Row" section of non-profit exhibitors at the Lockn' Festival, September 4-7th at the Oak Ridge Farm in Arrington. The festival would provide an opportunity for Almost Home to reach upward of 25,000 people from all over the country, allowing us to highlight our achievement as a no-kill shelter and fundraise for our programs in front of a national audience. As the festival is likely to become an annual event, we hope to build support from folks who will return year after year. Our booth will have visuals that discuss our programs, explain our needs and show our wonderful, deserving animals. We will also sell homemade baked goods and bumper stickers to raise money for the shelter.

WHY SUPPORT THE HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA OF NELSON COUNTY?

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Almost Home Pet Adoption Center, open 7 days a week from 1 P.M.– 4 P.M., except major holidays, takes in non-aggressive homeless and unwanted animals from the Nelson County Animal Control Facility and the general public. Homes are found for 800 to 1,200 animals a year through adoption at the facility, adoption events and transports to no-kill shelters in areas with greater population, giving them more opportunity for adoption.

LOST AND FOUND PETS

From Lost & Found reports to microchip and tattoo research, we do our best to reunite lost pets with their families.

PET SUPPLIES PLUS

We have a large floor cage for cats at Pet Supplies Plus in Charlottesville where we bring cats from Almost Home to give them exposure and a chance for adoption. Volunteers care for them daily.

SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

The HS/SPCA provides financial assistance to Nelson County pet owners for free or low-cost spay/neuter of cats and dogs and arranges weekly transports to the South Central Spay/Neuter Clinic in Evington for the surgery. This is made possible through grants received from PetSmart Charities Foundation, Petco Charities Foundation and the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies. More than 800 pets have been helped over the past two years.

TRAP/NEUTER RETURN

The HS/SPCA lends Nelson County residents Have-A-Heart traps and assists with trapping of feral cats for residents willing to keep the cats. It arranges for trapped cats to be transported to and from the Spay/Neuter Clinic in Evington. Following surgery, the cats are cared for in the traps at Almost Home for a couple of days of recuperation and then returned to cat caretakers. Free barn cats are available from the HS/SPCA.

SPCA THRIFT SHOP

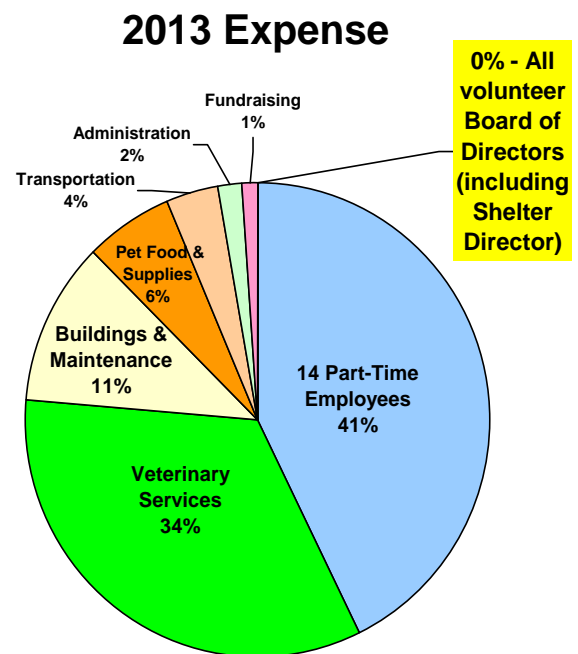
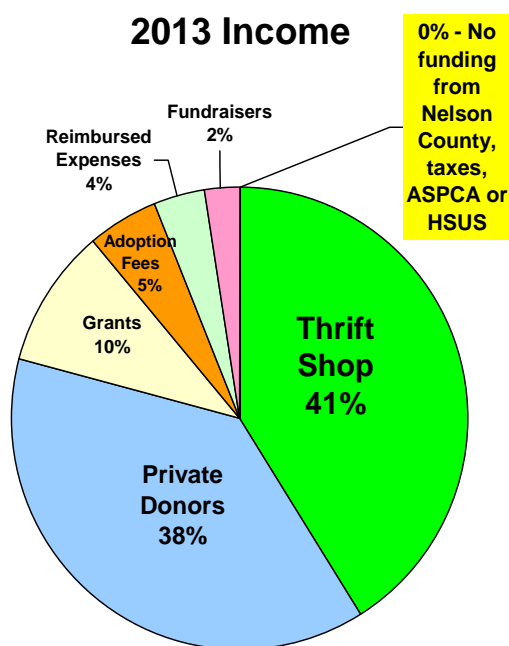
Our SPCA Thrift Shop "A gift shop with Thrift Shop Prices," is open Monday through Saturday from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. except on major holidays. Donations of clothing, jewelry, books, DVDs, toys, games, furniture are tax-deductible.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

We provide educational programs for schoolchildren to promote proper animal care.

WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT WE COULD NOT DO ALL OF THESE THINGS. THANK YOU!

...it's easy to help: volunteer, donate (money, supplies or time), or SHOP at our wonderful Thrift Shop!



FIRST ANNUAL "BABY SHOWER" FOR ALMOST HOME PET ADOPTION CENTER



Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 28, 2014
10 am—2 pm at our Thrift Store on 29 South in Arrington, VA

Help us provide care for the hundreds of kittens and puppies we take in each year. Our shelter operates solely on donations from the public - we spend thousands of dollars on these precious little ones to get them healthy, vetted and ready for adoption.

Purchase an item(s) from the list below and bring it to the BABY SHOWER!
If available, there will be puppies and kittens there for everyone to play with :) and refreshments !!!!!



Bleach © **Paper towels** © **Kitten Chow**
Puppy Chow © **Canned puppy food** © **Canned kitten food**
Kitten formula © **Puppy formula** © **Bleach wipes**
Kitten toys © **Puppy toys** © **Puppy pads**
Newspapers © **Old towels** © **Small blankets**



Monetary donations to help with vet bills and medical supplies
Gas cards or gift cards to help pay for gas for transports to New Jersey and Massachusetts

Snuggle Safe Microwavable Disc to keep little ones warm overnight (available at Amazon.com)



Thank you for your support!



Lucky Draw for Shelter

Board members Astrid Brock and Fonda Bell attended the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies Annual Conference in Roanoke in March and brought back lots of ideas for our shelter. They registered Almost Home for a grant for spay/neuter funds, and on the last night of the conference, the shelter's name got pulled from the hat! The \$1,000 will be used to help Nelson County residents spay and neuter their pets, and also for trap-neuter-release programs.



Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Our New Drivers

**Richard Plourde, left,
and Wally Goode**

Introducing Richard Plourde and Wally Goode, volunteers who have joined the Almost Home Pet Adoption Center family of transporters. Richard moved to Shipman from Maryland, and Wally grew up in Nelson County, lived in Michigan and then moved back to Nelson. The neighbors have gotten to know each other much better, having driven the SPCA van together to the Northeast Animal Shelter in Salem, Massachusetts, on six occasions with puppies, cats and kittens. Richard and Wally prefer to make their trips at night and arrive in the wee hours. That way, they miss a lot of traffic, and the animals sleep the entire way. By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, this dedicated duo will have transported 10 hound dogs to the Dane County Humane Society in Madison, Wisconsin. That's a journey that board member Astrid Brock made twice last year, once with board member Sarah Landon Hughes and once with board member Molly Crowell.

The Humane Society/SPCA is grateful to all the dedicated transporters to Massachusetts, New Jersey, Northern Virginia, and Wisconsin. What they have in common is that they are all helping to save the lives of homeless and unwanted animals. If you'd like to help, please call (434) 263-7722.



Share Our Shelter on Facebook

Almost Home would like to grow our online networking to help us get our animals adopted. If each of you asked two friends to like and share our page, and those individuals asked two friends, our network would grow immensely! To help, we've added a "Find us on Facebook" button just below the Navigation Menu on our Humane Society/SPCA of Nelson County web page: <http://www.nelsonspca.org/>

Dogs' Advice to Dog Owners ...

Don't be upset when I jump for joy when you come through the door

I live only 10 or 15 years. You are what makes that time enjoyable. It's hard on me when you go away.

Give me time to understand what you want from me

I don't always get it right on the first try, but I promise I'm trying as hard as I can.

Don't be angry with me for too long.

You have your friends and family to keep you happy and entertained. I just have you.

Talk to me

Sure, we don't speak the same language, but the sound of your voice brightens my whole day.

Remember that I'll never forget how you treat me

Teach me that humans are made of love, not pain. And don't ever let me forget it.

Please don't hit me

I have teeth that can crush bone. Instead, I cover you in sloppy, wet kisses. Just as I choose not to hurt you, please make the choice to not hurt me.

Mobile Grooming Changes

Sheila Justice is no longer able to bring her mobile grooming van to Almost Home on the last Friday of the month. She is, though, willing to donate 25% of the grooming fee for those who bring their pet for grooming to her shop, 128 Whitehead Drive (across from Food Lion) in Amherst. Call (434) 946-0823 for an appointment the last Friday of the month.

Consider Adopting Our Animals



Buster Brown and Callen

Buster Brown and Callen are shy roommates who have been waiting for a forever home for over two years! Buster is a neutered male, Lab/Hound mix, 50 pounds, about 2½ years old. He wears a soft brindle coat and loves belly rubs from those he trusts. Callen is a spayed female, Border Collie/Labrador Retriever, 40 pounds, about 2½ years old. She wears a mostly black coat and gets courage by looking to Buster for guidance. If things are OK with him, they *become* OK with her, too. They are food-motivated, very clean in their room (indicating they'd be easy to house train), and they have never been fear aggressive. They love the people they trust and like most other dogs, too. They need to be adopted together by patient, loving adults who will give them the time they need to settle in and trust them. A calm home and fenced yard are a must. Learn more about them on their web pages or contact Flower at (434) 361-0190 or ek.gk@verizon.net



Cody is a 4-year-old black and white neutered male who loves being with people and younger playful cats. He is known at Almost Home as the "Nanny" because he likes to take care of the kittens. Cody has had all of his teeth pulled but eats both dry and canned food without any problems. Cody would like an "indoor only" home where the people will treat him gently and lovingly.



Dexter is a mature tabby cat who spent a long time fending for himself outdoors. He wears some of the scars of battle, but he's a lover not a fighter and gets along nicely with the other cats. His real beauty shines through from his adorable chubby cheeks to his warm and loving personality. He would like a home where he can find all the love that he missed out on as a younger cat.

Roving Adoption Events: You Can Help



Above, Algenon makes a friend at a Wintergreen adoption event organized by board member Astrid Brock in May. Top right, Frisky with Mariclaire Hale. Below that, Tim Richardson with Copper, Marybeth Matthews with Goldie, and Macy Swift with Murphy. Students from Henley Middle School in Crozet also pitched in.



Denise Merricks with Vega at a 'Happy Tails' adoption event in Bedford. Above is Pawley, who found a home.

Enjoy a Fun Day While Helping Our Animals

Almost Home took part in two successful adoption events recently, one at the Wintergreen Resort and another at the Happy Tails Family Fun Day in Bedford. Events like these take place throughout the year, and the more volunteers we have, the more dogs we can bring and the more opportunities they have for adoption. To volunteer, please call Almost Home at (434) 263-7722 and leave a message if you don't get to speak to a member of the staff.

\$10,000 FOR MATCHING DONATIONS EARMARKED FOR THE "EXPANSION PROJECT"

Opportunity knocked and we answered. On June 17th, the HS/SPCA acquired a small house on 4 acres adjoining the Almost Home Pet Adoption Center property. Ready or not, the property was offered to us at a price we couldn't refuse, recognizing the potential it offered for future expansion. An interest-free loan was secured to fund the purchase. To help us retire that debt quickly, a very generous supporter who wishes to remain anonymous, will match up to \$10,000 of special donations earmarked for the "expansion project."

It will take time for the HS/SPCA Board to determine the best ways of adapting the property to our needs. In the near-term, help is needed for some basic repairs and cleanup. This Fall we hope to blaze trails through the wooded areas for off-road dog-walking. To volunteer, call Bette Grahame at [434-263-4378](tel:434-263-4378) or e-mail her at grahame@cville.net.

Grateful for all the good in the past 10 years, the HS/SPCA is now eager to see what can be achieved in the next 10 years for Almost Home Pet Adoption Center, recently dubbed "The Little Shelter That Can!" You can help us pay off the loan, raise funds for future expansion, and support all our rescue operations by sending your tax-deductible contribution to: Almost Home Pet Adoption Center, 29 Stagebridge Rd., Lovingson, VA 22949. We so deeply appreciate your help.



Almost Home Pet Adoption Center
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