by Connie Cook

How to save a life

Those of us who have animals in our lives are well aware of the cost of veterinary care. Now, imagine this: you are faced with almost 1,800 animals coming through your doors over the course of a year. Animals you care for and want to help because you have a deep love of all animals, not just your own animals. It sounds overwhelming. Yet, this is what our small, rural, underfunded shelter is faced with every single year… every single day.

How can we help them? How can we provide needed veterinary care when we struggle for every dollar? The answer is simple, yet profound. The answer is YOU. YOU donate to our Animal Care Fund throughout the year, every single time we ask for help. YOU help us save lives!

**YOU HELPED SAVE NIKO**, a wonderfully sweet and gentle dog. Niko swallowed a piece of a toy which became lodged in his intestines. He became extremely ill and would have died. Emergency surgery was his only hope and you came through with donations to our Animal Care Fund. Niko’s surgery was successful and he went on to find a new home.

**YOU HELPED SAVE BLUEY.** This loving dog arrived in extremely poor condition with raw paws, inflamed eyes and hair loss. Many vet trips later, Bluey was so much better! Bluey was adopted into a wonderful home with his own little girl!

**YOU HAVE SAVED AND CONTINUE TO HELP ALPINE.** Alpine arrived at our shelter over a year ago in horrible condition: starved, nearly hairless. He had been found wandering alone down a country road. Alpine is still at our shelter and is a frequent visitor to our vet’s office. He has ongoing skin issues for which he is given three medications every day. Alpine and all of our staff just know one day his family will

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**“If you consider that we cannot save them all, and what difference does one make, you ought to know the joy of the one who is saved.” —JIM WILLIS**
walk through our door and fall in love. On that day, Alpine will finally go home.

Just recently, **YOU HAVE SAVED DUKE AND SUGAR AND LOVELY AND ROLAND.** All four arrived heartworm positive and all have been treated or are currently being treated for heartworms. **YOU SAVED VIOLET,** a sweet, loving cat who arrived as a stray, having been found in a field. She was blind and in extreme pain from her badly infected eyes. You donated so she could have surgery to remove her eyes and have a second chance and live pain-free.

These are just a few of the stories. But, every single day you help save lives. Every single day we have cats and dogs on medications, or we are taking an animal to the veterinarian office for a medical or surgical issue or emergency. Why do we do this? We do this because we believe every animal deserves a second chance. And we know you believe that, too. This is why you come to the rescue of our animals and why you are there every time the need arises.

Our resources are constantly stretched thin. Our Animal Care Fund is always in danger of running out. That is why we are asking you to please consider donating to our Animal Care Fund. The money in this Fund is restricted and can only be used for direct medical or surgical care of our animals. You can rest assured this is money well spent. Money that will save a life. Money used to give a deserving animal a second chance. And,

**WE SIMPLY COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.❤️**
It’s spring! And kitten season! Every year, our shelter is inundated with unwanted kittens for whom we try to find homes and families. Please take advantage of the low-cost spay and neuter programs offered by the Humane Society to help control the feline population.

Changes have come to our shelter during the last few months:

One of our most active rescue partners, ARF, closed its doors after fifteen years of adoption and rescue services. While we regret the loss of this valuable relationship, we are the beneficiary of their generous donation of a great deal of their equipment. With the addition of these resources, the cat room is now almost cage free. Finally, all the cats can utilize the outdoor play area, rather than just a few lucky babies. The puppy room also got a serious face-lift with new paint, soundproofing panels, and art work. ARF also gave us their security cameras, which will ensure the safety of our staff and the animals. We would love to hear from anyone with the skill and knowledge to install them!

The Caroline County Detention Center and Community Outreach Department are assisting us with drywall repair, and they have donated diamond plate to be installed in the hallway and areas constantly in contact with water. They also helped create a finished room in the warehouse where we could isolate the cats infected during last year’s ringworm epidemic. We thank you all so much!

The concrete floors have received an epoxy coating, donated by my wonderful husband.

Now as you enter the shelter, you will see our new Memorial Tree, a fundraising tool also donated by ARF. It looks fantastic, and our staff can assist you in making a donation there.

Last, but certainly not least, we have put together a great team to manage shelter operations:

Virginia Sherwood, Adoption Coordinator
Valerie Purdy, Facility/Personnel Coordinator
Lisa Nickerson, Medical Coordinator
Tracy DeHoff, Animal Evaluations/Rescue Coordinator

Our spring Open House takes place on April 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please stop by to see all the wonderful changes we’ve made, meet our staff, and take a stroll among our four-legged friends. You might find the one you’ve been waiting for!

As always, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your continued support.

Bonnie Johnson
President, CCHS Board of Directors

Did you KNOW?
the Caroline County Humane Society offers FREE SPAY AND NEUTER for dogs and cats belonging to residents of Caroline County as well as those in the following areas of Dorchester County: Federalsburg, Hurlock, East New Market, Secretary, Vienna and Rhodesdale.

Call us today at 410-820-1600 for more information and to find out if you qualify. We have several options available.
The daily life within an animal shelter is a sea of ever-changing emotions; from sadness one moment to elation the next...and everywhere in between. What keeps us going through the sad times are the happy times. The happy endings. The joy of seeing a dog finally find their way home. Like Clara.

In December of 2015, Clara arrived at our shelter. Just a six month old puppy, we had removed her from her previous living situation because of neglect and extremely poor conditions. Our first impression of Clara was joyful. It was hard for us to understand how a puppy with such a horrible beginning of her life could be so happy. But she was. We also quickly realized that Clara was deaf. It was easy for us all to fall in love with Clara, with her charming personality, her smiling face. Her deafness made her even more endearing to us. But, no one came for Clara. Many other dogs around her in the kennel found homes and new ones arrived; a constant cycle. Almost one year passed, and finally! Someone wanted to adopt Clara! We were overjoyed. We thought Clara was home forever. But that was not to be. Sadly, she was returned as her adopters felt they just did not have the time or ability to care for Clara. And 2016 became 2017.

In the summer of 2017, once again Clara found a home. A wonderful, loving woman, who was also deaf, met and fell in love with Clara. A perfect match. She was teaching Clara sign language. Her mom even came back to adopt a second dog, Bane, and now Clara had a brother, too. The family was complete. We finally stopped holding our breath and let out a huge sigh of relief. But then tragedy struck. We received a telephone call from the Baltimore County Animal Shelter. They had Clara and Bane. Sadly, their mom had suddenly and unexpectedly died and Clara and Bane were brought to their shelter. When they were scanned for a microchip, their chips led back to CCHS. We rushed to Baltimore County to get them. Happily, Bane was adopted again not too long after. But Clara...Clara was still without a family.

We know there is nothing like the resiliency of dogs, and Clara’s spirit remained unchanged. She was eternally optimistic, hopeful. When we would walk down the aisle of the shelter we could feel her eyes on us, quietly watching. Are they going to stop and pet me? Are they going to take me out for a walk? Am I going home?

After such a long time in a shelter, almost TWO YEARS for Clara by this time, some dogs become withdrawn. Some dogs become depressed. But not Clara. No. She always had the same exuberance, happiness and joy. Yes, she had become a little more hyper, a little mouthy. But, when we would sit with her, she would become calm. She needed to get so close and lean on us, or sit right in our laps. She craved that contact, needed that love from humans.

Then, in December of 2017, almost two years to the day, Clara’s (and our) dreams became reality. A FAMILY! A family for Clara! When they came to visit her for the first time, we were so anxious and excited at the same time. The family had a young boy and girl, and while we KNEW Clara had a gentle nature, her long years of confinement had led to moments of overexcitement. But, it was love at first sight, on both sides. Clara went home, and there were happy tears shed that day!

We have just recently received an update from Clara’s mom. This is what she has to say: Clara loves being outside running all around and watching over her yard. She is so happy to see her family when we come home from work or school. Clara wags her tail so fast that she gets a “wiggle walk”. She loves to snuggle in bed whenever she gets the chance. She is just all around happy. While she does need a little training, I think all dogs probably do”.

We think of Clara often, and think of the following quote when we do, “Life takes you to unexpected places. Love brings you home”. Our sweet Clara is finally home.
Bringing Home a New Dog: The Two Week Shutdown

by Charlotte Shearin

We know that the first thing dog owners want to do when they bring a new dog home is show off the new pup to family and friends, take him to the pet store, introduce him to other pets in the home, visit with friends’ dogs, and do all the things that come with having a dog. But hold on! Let’s think about this from the dog’s perspective.

He has been living at a noisy, stressful shelter where he likely did not receive adequate exercise. He may have had trouble sleeping in the shelter environment. He may not have had a stable routine. He is likely still stressed from his time in the shelter and unsure of his new surroundings, even including his new people. What your new pup likely wants to do is go home, relax, and take a nap.

Enter the Two Week Shutdown! During the initial two week period, the dog is taking in his new environment, adjusting to his new routine, and learning who he can trust. The Two Week Shutdown gives him the time and space to do all of this by limiting potentially over-stimulating experiences (meeting new animals or people) and environments (pet stores, hikes, and even long walks).

We promise, taking the extra time at the beginning will more than pay off in the end. Once your new pup has a chance to decompress, you’ll really see his personality shine! And don’t forget, two weeks is a general guideline. Some dogs may need more time to adjust and some may take less time. It all depends on the individual dog! ♡

For more details on how to implement the Two Week Shutdown, go to midatlanticbullybuddies.org/two-week-shutdown

SO HOW DO YOU DO THE TWO WEEK SHUTDOWN? Here is a basic outline:

1. **Crate the dog in a room by itself.** Dogs are sensory animals and pick up on a lot without having to visually see it.

2. **Leash the dog at all times when not crated.** This means leash the dog to you in the house (this helps a lot with bonding too) and out in the yard (can use a long line).

3. **Do little to no training at all.** Interactions with the new dog at this point should be positive so as to strengthen the bond. This is another GREAT reason to have the dog leashed to you at all times because, how can they get into trouble if they are right there with someone *ALL* the time.

4. **No walks, car rides, pet store excursions, other animals (unless crated next to them) etc.** Walks provide an over abundance of stimuli and are VERY stressful, especially when the dog still has no reason to trust you. The dog may react to something on a walk and if we correct it with the leash, we’ve just instilled a VERY STRESSFUL moment in the dog in what should be a fun and learning walk. Once the dog trusts you (i.e. after the Two Week Shutdown), then you can venture out into new situations one at a time, so that the dog knows he can trust in his new humans and can relax under the fair guidance of his new people.

5. **Allow the dog 20-30 minute intervals of time in and out of the crate, AFTER exercise/yard times.** For instance, take the dog out for 20-30 minutes and then crate the dog for about 20-30 minutes. The dog is not crated for an excessive amount of time and is still able to learn. As time progresses, the intervals can be increased to help the dog adjust to a more accurate routine.

6. **Refrain from introducing the dog to resident pets.** Crating dogs side by side will help them get used to one another but GREATLY limit any interactions for the first two weeks. As the dog begins to relax and look to you for direction, introduce the dogs/pets slowly. Keep the initial introductions VERY short, 10-15 minutes at a time. Supervise at all times and increase the time by small amounts daily.
CAROLINE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

FEATURING A TALENT SHOW!

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018, 6–11 P.M.
GREENSBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE CO HALL
13760 Greensboro Road

$50 per person includes:
2 drink tickets, Steve Moody DJ, and dinner
catered by Chesapeake Culinary Center

Sponsored by
Tuckahoe Sail and Canvas

• Music and dancing
• Dinner
• Cake and liquor wheel
• Wine Grab
• Chinese, silent, live auction
• Cash bar

Follow us on Facebook to see up-to-date details on event.
facebook.com/CarolineCountyHumane/

Tickets available on Eventbrite
eventbrite.com/e/caroline-county-humane-society-blue-jean-ball-tickets-43288154034
or call 410-634-2303, jshipley55@comcast.net. Sponsorships available.
Introducing a New Cat to a Home

by Jennifer Hodge

Yes, you can introduce a new cat to other cats already living in your home. Sometimes a simple task, it can also be tricky. Knowing a few simple things about how a cat’s mind works and where its comfort is derived can be the difference between a harmonious home and anxious feline loved ones.

It helps to know a little bit about how cats have evolved. Unlike dogs, who have evolved with intricate intra-pack social systems and pecking orders—with easy to communicate canine social cues—cats have evolved as solitary creatures. Thus, cats do not have a range of social cues available to them to communicate their feelings and establish social boundaries and connections. Be assured that a cat will do all in its power to avoid a fight, staving off conflict with eye contact or scent, so your cats may be sending signals without you even knowing it is happening! Scent is one of the primary ways that cats use to communicate both in the wild and in the home.

Their ability to deliver scent, based on their feelings, is through what is called their “olfactory” system. Through this, a cat can communicate fear and pleasure and claim his or her territory. This is the key to introducing cats!

Cats do not have an emotional need for territory—cats are not able to act on ego! A cat will be territorial only as a means to ensure that they have the resources they need to survive. It is important to know that aggression is not a normal means of communication. It is simply information gathering, as if to say, “I would like to make this place my home. You are welcome to be my neighbor, but let’s separate our resources to make sure we both have enough.” The exception is among unneutered males looking for mates. Neutering your male cat will eliminate this instinct.

So rule number 1, make sure you have enough litter boxes, food and water dishes, bedding, and toys for all the cats, at least one of each of these per cat in the home—plus one more.

In addition, because cats have a territory scent, it is important to create a communal territory scent. To begin, I recommend keeping your cats separate, each with their own resources. Once you find a blanket or bedding they like to sleep on, which has their scent on it, switch it up, so it is in the other cat’s “territory.” Do not force the other cat to interact with the new object—just allow them to explore it. (If you are having trouble getting a cat’s scent on an object, just pet the cat with a sock on your hand and then use that in the other’s territory.)

Once the cat shows no sign of fear over the object, you can begin brushing each cat with the same brush—again, only while there are no signs of fear. The last step will be to actually introduce the cats! I recommend using their favorite meal. Place the cats on opposite sides of a room to share their meal, creating a positive association. It is imperative that this part not be rushed. Always stop before your cat begins to show signs of fear. Gradually increase the amount of time they are together in the room and decrease the amount of space between the cats—always keeping it a positive association and stopping while it is still positive for them. If you are getting past mealtime, try playing with them—separate, but in the same room, so it does not create competition, but cooperation and fun.

The key is to help the cats think, “Hey, when this new guy is around, good things happen!” Once you have established this, you will have a harmonious home! ❤

Please note that this will work with re-introduction of cats who currently dislike each other. It just will happen more slowly than a first introduction typically does.
Follow us on Facebook to see up-to-date details on Blue Jean Ball: facebook.com/CarolineCountyHumane

Kitten season is here!
Looking for bottle baby fosters. Please call 410-820-1600

Look at Dyson, who is now Thumper!
One of our wonderful bottle baby fosters took Dyson and littermates home to care for them. She adopted Thumper and look at him now! What a beautiful kitty! Thank you for all you do for us and helping the bottle babies.

SAVE THE DATE!
5th Annual BLOCK PARTY!
SEPTEMBER 21 | 2018