



Paws & Effect



The Newsletter of the SPCA of Northern Virginia

Summer 2017

Rescuing Homeless Kittens

♥ BY Mansie Hough

While the dog days of summer bring sunshine and oppressive heat to the D.C. area, we at SPCA NOVA are experiencing something else: kitten season!

This is the time of year when shelters and rescue organizations get an influx of kittens that need veterinary and foster care and forever homes. While caring for kittens is rewarding, it's a big responsibility and a lot of work to get these extra bundles of joy healthy and ready to find new families. We rescue at least 250 cats and kittens per year, and many of these rescues are kittens found outdoors by good Samaritans.

Not only is it more work to take care of more cats, but kittens require special TLC – their bodies are more fragile and prone to injury, and their health needs to be closely monitored since kittens often arrive into our care sick, malnourished, and sometimes injured. Because of this, we spend a lot of time not only caring for the kittens but also teaching our fosters, adopters, and other good Samaritans how to care for them too.

A common phone call or email we receive goes a bit like this:

"I was taking out the trash today, and I heard a little squeak coming out from under my house. I bent down to see what the noise was, and was shocked to see five baby kittens

huddled together with their mom! One of them looks like he might have an injured paw, and the mom looks thin and hungry. But, when I try to go near them, the mom gets really protective and hisses at me. What should I do to help these poor kitties?"

In fact, when I was in college in rural southwest Virginia, a very similar thing happened to me! My roommates and I were surprised to find a baby kitten living under our house as we were packing to leave campus for spring break. We had no idea how to help her and did not act quickly enough – when we came back from spring break, she was gone. Since then, I've become more informed about things like humane trapping, assessing and handling stray vs. feral cats, and being aware of whom to contact for help.

Steps to Take

The first thing to know, especially if you are handling young kittens, is it is crucial to act quickly to either bring them into your home, or get them into the hands of an experienced caretaker or rescue organization. Socialization at a very young age – before they are six weeks old – is critical. Their chances of a long, healthy life post-rescue decrease the longer they are left outside without human interaction and exposed to heat, parasites, and other animals who might be aggressive or pass on diseases.



ABOVE: Georgie, Frankie, and Teddy were rescued from outdoors as tiny babies earlier this year.

TOP: Samuel came into SPCA NOVA's care this year, along with several other cats and kittens who were living outside of a local pizza parlor.

All of these kittens – and many more – are currently available for adoption.

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See **Kittens** on page 4



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The SPCA of Northern Virginia is a volunteer-based, non-profit rescue organization. We rely on donations, adoption fees, and fundraising activities for revenue. Our voluntary Board of Directors, volunteers, and part-time employees are responsible for all SPCA activities. We do not have a shelter and depend on a private kennel and foster parents to care for domestic animals until adoption.

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President's Letter

Change Is In the Air

♥ **BY Dana Meeker**

Over the next few months, you'll be seeing some changes in SPCA NOVA's website and communications.

Website

We are beginning the process of redesigning our website, and we hope to launch it in 2018.

The last major update to our site was in 2009 when smart phones with easy Internet access were just starting to take off. Last year, for the first time in history, mobile Internet usage worldwide surpassed desktop and laptop activity, so it seemed like the perfect time to make our site more responsive. This means it will automatically scale to the correct size on any device you're using – from a large desktop computer to your tablet to your smart phone. Depending

on the screen size of your device, things will look a bit different – but the content will remain the same, and you'll still find us at www.spcanova.org.

The new site will be on a more user-friendly platform that doesn't require coding skills for content modification. This will allow updates to be made in a more timely manner by more people. Site search capability will also be added, making it easier for visitors to find what they're looking for.

Logo

However, the first change you'll see is an updated logo to go with the fresh look of our future website. Our logo has not changed since it was first designed, and while we love the human, cat, and dog profiles, *Paws & Effect* Editor and Designer Angel Fischer suggested

Introducing the new SPCA NOVA logo:



modernizing its appearance and adding color. The redesign process also resulted in smoother and more realistic human and animal profiles.

We hope you will like the new logo as much as the SPCA NOVA Board does. In the coming weeks, you'll start to see it online and in email communications, then gradually in print as we exhaust current supplies.

As Roy T. Bennett writes in *The Light in the Heart*, "Change may not always bring growth, but there is no growth without change."

SPCA NOVA's Annual Dog Wash Fundraiser

Saturday, September 16
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Weber's Pet Supermarket
 11021 Lee Highway
 Fairfax, VA 22030



Our volunteers will pamper your pooch with a bath, nail clipping, and even ear clipping!

Want more information or want to volunteer?
www.spcanova.org
 (703) 799-9390

Kimball's Journey from Anxious to Ahhh

♥ BY Dana Meeker

We'll never know what first set Kimball off, but there was no doubt this Boston Terrier mix was a bundle of nerves when he came into SPCA NOVA's care. Most of what we know comes from his medical records.

Kimball had skin troubles, possibly caused by stress from separation anxiety. In 2011, he nearly died when, during a bout of anxiety, he ate carpet or a toy that caused an obstruction. Surgery saved him, but the anxiety continued. Kimball's guardian at the time told the vet the dog was destroying his house. In 2015, Kimball was prescribed Prozac. Shortly after this, his guardian reached out to SPCA NOVA because the dog's skin wasn't clearing up, and his anxiety continued despite the medication.

We saw potential in Kimball, a beautiful dog underneath a dull, flaky, itchy coat, and accepted him into our care. Lisa Reid of Ragged Mountain Dogs (RMD) took Kimball in for boarding. Any noise set him off screaming and panicking. He tried to chew through his chain link fence. Thunder was a particularly bad trigger, so Lisa started watching the Doppler radar when storms were expected so

she could put him inside and turn on the radio to drown out the thunder. She also bought a baby monitor for the kennel to allow her to hear when he started panicking and step in to keep it from escalating and setting off the rest of the dogs.

Kimball was on a very high dose of Prozac when he came to SPCA NOVA. As a result, he appeared catatonic at adoption fairs, his true personality buried under the meds. Despite receiving multiple inquiries, potential adopters were worried about the Prozac and how his separation anxiety would impact their lives.

Eventually, life at the kennel began establishing order in Kimball's environment with scheduled feedings, play time, and potty time. Since dogs are seldom alone at RMD, it also became clear Kimball's anxiety was more generalized than just separation anxiety. Lisa kept him active in play groups and worked with him extensively to teach him to focus. Instead of looking for bogeymen, he gradually started to look to Lisa for instructions and praise.

Over time, Lisa was able to lower Kimball's Prozac dose and, by mid-2016, wean him completely off the drug. He wasn't cured, but he was better able to handle himself

and deal with his surroundings.

In December, Bill came to our last adoption fair of the year and asked about Kimball. Bill feels that adopting a rescue dog with an issue is part of the adoption gift, and he had recently lost his beloved SPCA NOVA dog Maxie, whose special "gift" was marking.

Bill seemed like a good match for Kimball because he works from home most of the time, allowing him to provide Kimball with the company he needs. In January, Bill picked up Kimball for his trial placement and finalized the adoption two weeks later.

Bill relates that initially Kimball (a.k.a. K-Dog) would not go outside without significant coaxing. He was never destructive, but Bill didn't leave him alone for long periods. Over time, he worked up to being able to leave Kimball for as much as five hours at a time. Kimball just goes upstairs and goes to sleep.

Kimball enjoys going in and out of Bill's doggie door and lounging on the deck. Initially, he paid no attention to any critters in the yard, but now, like most dogs, he chases the squirrels and



Kimball, a.k.a. K-Dog, enjoys boat rides with his new guardian.

rabbits ("chases" being the operative word). As a result of K-Dog's sentry duty, Bill now gets to enjoy the tomatoes he grows in his garden.

Kimball can still get wound up when he hears dogs go by on the other side of the fence, but Bill doesn't let it get out of hand and brings him into the house before he can get too frantic. Kimball didn't enjoy the July Fourth fireworks very much, hiding under the bed, but when it was over, he recovered quickly. New experiences are still greeted with trepidation, but if Bill is there, he will give most things a try. When Bill first took Kimball out on his boat, Kimball wasn't too sure if it was a good thing or not, but now he loves it because it's quality time with his favorite person. If you ask Kimball, I think he'd say life is finally pretty good.

Following is a good guide to follow in most situations:

1. Create a Welcoming, Non-Threatening Environment

Put out food and water – especially canned food for kittens since at a young age they can't eat dry food. This not only helps ensure they get proper nutrition but will give the mom an incentive to stay close by so they can be rescued.

2. Assess the Situation

Are the Kittens Alone?

Even if the kittens appear to be alone, don't get too close right away. There may be a mom cat nearby caring for them. Mom cats instinctively move their kittens often to hide them from predators, especially when she realizes they have been discovered.

What If There Is a Mom Cat?

If there is a mom cat, does she appear to be a friendly stray cat or is she feral? It's not always easy to tell since she may be scared and will be protective of her kittens.

A stray cat was cared for by humans prior to being lost or abandoned and will be social toward people once she doesn't feel threatened. A scared and protective, but

otherwise friendly, stray cat may just need time to learn to trust you.

A feral cat has not had meaningful, ongoing contact with humans and was probably born outdoors. A feral cat may come to you for food, but won't be very trusting or curious toward you.

Can the Kittens Eat on Their Own?

If kittens are too young to eat on their own (under four to five weeks of age), you need to consider whether you or someone else is available to bottle feed them if they are rescued without the mom cat.

Can the Kittens Be Socialized?

Kittens are easily socialized only when rescued at a very young age (ideally four to five weeks, but generally not older than six weeks). Otherwise, they don't typically bond well with humans. Older kittens may bond with their caretaker, but don't often transfer that trust to other humans.

Do the Cats Appear Sick or Injured?

A cat with health issues may appear too skinny or malnourished, have discharges from their eyes or noses, or be sneezing or coughing. Look to see if there are any noticeable injuries to their paws,

legs, or bodies. If they are up and about, check to see if they are walking and running around with ease.

Are the Cats in Immediate Danger?

Are they in an area where they could be hit by a car, or attacked by another animal? Assessing their degree of safety is important in determining how quickly you need to act to rescue them.

3. Take Action Rescue Them Yourself

If the mom cat is friendly and/or the kittens are easily accessible and young enough to socialize, bring them inside your home to care for them until you find a longer-term solution.

To get the mom and kittens safely inside your home or into the hands of a rescue organization, you may be able to set a large carrier outside with food in it to lure the mom inside and then pick up the kittens. If the cats are shy, you may need to humanely trap them.

If you are bringing them inside your home, put them in a bathroom since they may have fleas and the mom will feel safer in a relatively small space where she can see there are no immediate threats to her kittens.

For tips on how to socialize feral kittens, read our article at

www.spcanova.org/health/taming_ferals.php.

Get Help

If you can't determine if the mom is friendly, can't easily pick up the kittens safely, are on your way out of town, and/or can't figure out what to do:

- Contact local shelters and rescue organizations for advice and/or assistance. Remember, during kitten season shelters and rescue organizations are swamped so be persistent.
- Contact your local veterinary office to see if they have an experienced staff member who can provide you with advice, especially if the mom cat or kittens are sick or injured. Vet offices also often work with rescue organizations and may be able to recommend groups to contact.
- **Do not** take a mom cat and/or kittens to a shelter without first contacting them to learn about their policies. Some shelters won't take stray or feral cats/kittens and will tell you to simply put them back outside. Others will euthanize them. If you have young kittens without a mom, find out whether the shelter has a foster program to bottle feed the kittens.



Chip and Ruby were found in a boat with their siblings, Cookie and Ruffles.

A Real Kitten Rescue Story

♥ BY *Kathleen MacKinnon*

In May 2016, SPCA NOVA got an email very late one night from a woman who had found four kittens in her boat after returning home from a trip. Sadly, this meant the mom cat had been unknowingly left behind.

We were alarmed to hear the kittens had actually been found the previous day but had not been given any food or water. The woman didn't know how to take care of them and was more worried about feeding them the wrong food.

We told her it was absolutely critical to purchase canned cat food immediately, mix it with a little bit of warm water, and try to get the kittens to lap it up. An hour or so later, she let us know the kittens were eating, which was a huge relief.

We arranged to meet the woman at a vet office with the kittens early the next morning.

When we saw them, more alarm bells went off. They were so tiny (weighing only between 12 and 15 ounces), were infested with fleas, and had diarrhea. We immediately began syringe-feeding the kittens and combing off the fleas until a vet was available to examine them. Three of the four kittens needed IV fluids to keep them hydrated, so they were hospitalized.

Over the next two weeks, a careful routine was carried out: syringe-feed the kittens every four hours, give them multiple medications for their diarrhea, encourage them to lap up their watered-down kitten food on their own, monitor their vital signs, and give them lots of cuddles. They slowly started gaining weight, eating and drinking water on their own, and the diarrhea cleared up.



Ruffles gets weighed at the vet office. He and his siblings were dehydrated, infested with fleas, and suffering from diarrhea. All but one required IV fluids.

If the kittens hadn't been so tiny and without food and water for so long, this may have been a routine rescue. Instead it was a very close call.

The good news is all four kittens – who were later named Chip, Ruby, Cookie, and Ruffles – are all thriving and were adopted to wonderful families.

Cat & Kitten Adoptions

Purcellville Pet Valu

Every day in summer, then Fridays to Mondays
120 Purcellville Gateway Drive, Suite A/B
Purcellville, VA 20132 • (540) 441-7637

Fairfax Pet Valu

Aug. 26 & alternating Saturdays, Noon to 3 p.m.
3069 Nutley St. SW, Fairfax, VA 22031
(703) 865-4546

Arrange in advance to meet an SPCA volunteer via spcanova@aol.com (*handling of cats is permitted only when a volunteer is present*). Detailed schedules at www.spcanova.org/adoption/catvisits.php.

Heartworm Prevention in Dogs, Cats

♥ BY *Katie McHenry*

For responsible dog guardians, a monthly heartworm prevention pill (like Heartgard) is simply a way of life. Most dog guardians know that an untreated dog is vulnerable to heartworm, a mosquito-borne parasite that lives in the heart, lungs, and blood vessels of an infected animal.

However, many cat guardians may not realize cats are also susceptible, albeit to a much lesser degree as their physiology makes them undesirable hosts for heartworms. According to VCA Hospitals, cats have only between 5 percent and 20 percent the rate of heartworm infection that dogs have, and while dogs can host up to hundreds of heartworms at once, cats usually have fewer than six (usually between one and three).

However, while most heartworms in cats don't survive to the adult stage, even immature heartworms can still cause a disease in cats known as HARD (heartworm associated respiratory disease), and the worms that make it to the adult stage can live two to three years in cats (five to seven years in dogs).

While there are approved medications to treat heartworms in dogs, the same isn't true for

cats, although symptoms can be managed with medications. This means the only recommended treatment for heartworms in cats is prevention. When deciding whether to expose your cat to preventive treatments that can be expensive and have adverse side effects, you'll have to ask yourself if the benefits outweigh the risks.

How Heartworm Is Transmitted

In an infected dog or cat, female heartworms release babies (called "microfilaria") into the animal's bloodstream, which are picked up by mosquitoes when they suck the animal's blood. It then takes between 10 and 14 days for the microfilaria to become larvae, at which point they're infectious.

When a mosquito carrying heartworm larvae bites their next victim, the larvae enter the bloodstream through the new bite wound. It then takes about six months for the larvae to become adult heartworms. Female worms that reach the adult stage can range in size from six to 14 inches long and are about one-eighth inch wide; male worms are about half that size.

Because the parasite is transmitted via mosquitoes, heartworm disease is more prevalent in certain

geographic regions and climates where mosquitoes remain active year-round. However, other factors – such as the country-wide relocation of tens of thousands of infected cats and dogs after Hurricane Katrina, or the migration of heartworm carriers such as coyotes – can also affect heartworm disease risk in other areas.

Symptoms and Treatment

In both cats and dogs, heartworm disease symptoms may include coughing, loss of appetite, weight loss, vomiting, difficulty breathing, fainting, lethargy, or even sudden death. The only way to diagnose heartworm is with a blood test administered at a vet's office.

In heartworm-positive dogs, the earlier the disease is diagnosed, the greater the chances for survival. In cases of advanced heartworm disease, there is usually significant damage to the internal organs, which can sometimes mean a shortened lifespan. Treatment for dogs usually includes an antibiotic and an injection to kill the adult heartworms, followed by another drug to kill the remaining microfilaria a month later.

Because there is no approved treatment for

heartworm-positive cats (the medication used for dogs can be dangerous when used on cats), the focus is usually on treating the symptoms, such as administering diuretics to help remove fluid from the lungs or prednisolone to reduce lung inflammation.

In cats and dogs alike, dying adult heartworms can get trapped in the lungs, leading to further respiratory complications.

Heartworm Prevention Options

For both cats and dogs, the options for heartworm prevention medication range from oral to topical, and from heartworm prevention only (such as Heartgard) to comprehensive heartworm/flea/tick/roundworm/hookworm prevention (such as Revolution). Keep in mind the number of parasites the medicine protects against will increase the cost of the treatment. Heartgard runs about \$5 to \$10 per pill per month, while Revolution, a topical medication, runs about \$15 to \$20 per vial per month.

Depending on the medication, side effects can range from mild to severe. These might include loss of appetite, vomiting, salivation, diarrhea, tremors, agitation, disorientation, shock, hives, seizures and, in rare instances, death.

Any cat or dog that could be exposed to mosquitoes, should be on a heartworms prevention medication.



Whether the medicine is oral or topical, it should be administered monthly for dogs year-round. For cats, there are additional considerations on whether to treat at all or only certain months of the year based on the much lower risk of a cat contracting heartworms, especially for indoor-only cats.

Is It Worth It?

Benjamin Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Because dogs are the ideal host for heartworms, and dogs usually spend some portion of their day outdoors, **dog guardians should always opt for heartworm prevention.** However, for cat guardians, the answer is, "Well, it depends."

As with all decisions in life, it's important to weigh the risks in terms of the rewards, and – as your cat's guardian – only you can accurately answer that question.

However, when determining the answer, factors to consider will include your geographic location, the likelihood of infection based on where you live, whether your cat is indoor/outdoor or indoor-only, whether your indoor-only cat has outdoor access (including a screened-in porch), and your budget.

To be clear, SPCA NOVA is a firm believer that the vast majority of cats should be indoor only, rather than indoor/outdoor. Most cats are happy indoors only, as long as they have the right indoor home environment with plenty of stimulation with humans, toys, and other pets (if they like other cats or dogs). That being said, indoor/outdoor cats should absolutely be protected from heartworm and, since they would also need flea/tick prevention, you should consider a product that covers both (such as Revolution).

If you live in a hot, humid, mosquito-

infested area, and your indoor-only cat has limited access to the outdoors (such as a screened-in porch), it might make sense to invest in a heartworm prevention medication since there is not yet an accepted treatment for heartworm-positive cats.

What SPCA NOVA Recommends

SPCA NOVA's dogs are already on Heartgard, so when you adopt a dog from us, we give you the next month's dose to administer for the sake of continuity. It is imperative that you keep your dog on a heartworm prevention medication and that you follow up with annual testing, visits, and vaccinations.

When used properly, preventative heartworm medications for cats are considered safe – but read the instructions, consult your vet, and use it only when needed. Because SPCA NOVA cats must be indoor-only, we have already eliminated the most important risk factor – being outdoors. However, if the adopter has a screened-in porch where the cat spends time during the hot, humid months when the risk for exposure is higher, we recommend using a comprehensive product like Revolution because if a cat is exposed to mosquitoes, chances are they will be exposed to fleas as well.

2017 Dog Adoption Fairs

Weber's Pet Supermarket

11021 Lee Hwy
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 385-3766

Saturdays

August

26 12:30 to 3 p.m.

September

9 1 to 3:30 p.m.
23 12:30 to 3 p.m.

October

14 & 28 ... 12:30 to 3 p.m.

November

4 & 18 12:30 to 3 p.m.

December

9 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Schedule is subject to change, so please check our website for updates.



Shopping Can Save Lives!

Shop at the iGive Mall, Best Bully's, or Big Dog Cares through the links at the bottom of our home page, and a portion of your purchase will be donated to SPCA NOVA!

Start your shopping at
www.spcanova.org



Gifts in Remembrance

SPCA NOVA welcomes donations made in memory or honor of someone special in your life. Please include the name and address of the person you would like notified of your donation, along with the name of the person or pet being remembered or honored.

In Memory of

- ♥ **“Bailee” Kerns**
~ Lucinda Kerns
- ♥ **“Betun,” “Macarena,” & “Rolando”**
~ N Patricia Millard
- ♥ **“Blue” of Sterling, Va.**
~ Lorraine Burton & Hasan Dajani
- ♥ **“Casey”**
~ Alyssa Harry
- ♥ **“Cashmere” & “Tuxedo”**
~ Michele Taulton
- ♥ **“Chocolat”**
~ Alice Katz
- ♥ **“Cleo”**
~ Sandra Randolph
- ♥ **“Comet” Gray**
~ Don & Pat Hill
- ♥ **“Conan” Dupart**
~ Dana Fredericksen
- ♥ **“Emmy”**
~ Dana Meeker
- ♥ **“Floyd” & “Gunner” Krevere**
~ JoAnn and Walter Shaub
- ♥ **“Joey”**
~ Donald Brown
- ♥ **“Lady Astor Schick,” in loving memory of a great friend & companion along with being “just a cool cat”**
~ Harry Scott
- ♥ **“Leah”**
~ Janet Spore
- ♥ **“Lilly”**
~ Beth Schomber
- ♥ **“Lily” & “Shamrock”**
~ Nicholas Theodorson
- ♥ **“Lucky” Hecht**
~ Michele Sanford
- ♥ **“Luke”**
~ Jerome Ducrest
- ♥ **“Maggie”**
~ Cynthia Hull
- ♥ **“Mitzi” & “Mellow”**
~ Carol Goldstone
- ♥ **“Niko”**
~ Susan Medick
- ♥ **“Pepe”**
~ Melanie Brown
- ♥ **“Roman” Ruiz**
~ Dale Lumby
- ♥ **“Rubgy”**
~ Philip Cox
- ♥ **“Sawyer”**
~ Dana Meeker
- ♥ **“Scooter”**
~ Philip W Logan
- ♥ **“Shifty” Sadowski**
~ James Colby
- ♥ **“Stinkers” Birkhead**
~ Lauren Birkhead
- ♥ **“Suzie,” the sweetest cat**
~ Lawrence Tran
- ♥ **“Taz”**
~ William Kottenstette
- ♥ **“Teddy”**
~ Penny Vaughn
- ♥ **“Topaz” & “Butterscotch”**
~ Ms Petra & Doug Raymond
- ♥ **“Vato” Sullivan**
~ Joan Sullivan
- ♥ **“Wally”**
~ Linda Jeffers
- ♥ **“Zorro,” SPCA NOVA Cat Extraordinaire**
~ Katharine Norris
- ♥ **A recently lost pet from Herndon, Va.**
~ Nadine Briden
- ♥ **All the cats who have enriched my life**
~ Elisabeth & Judith Clardy
- ♥ **Amelia**
~ William R Jones
- ♥ **Barbara M. Cohen**
~ Joan Breidenbach (she was a passionate and devoted advocate for so many dogs who needed help over so many years)
- ~ Ray & Jan Chappelle
- ~ Susie Chappelle
- ~ Sharon Dyer
- ~ Barbara Fisher
- ~ In Loving Memory, from Ari Fredge, Chris Holloway & “King” Jager
- ~ From Friends of Barbara Cohen at The Kilmer Center
- ~ From members of the weekly Thursday Stitching Group, known commonly as “Stitch & B**ch” – Cheryl Rothbart, Nancy Bowers, Lucia Lloyd, Eileen Vidrene, Mary Wells, Karen Bugg, C.E. Duke, Sandra Schroeder
- ~ From the dog volunteers of the SPCA of Northern Virginia
- ~ Hillary Haag
- ~ Maureen Cohen Harrington
- ~ Joan V & Jim Hughes
- ~ Jennifer Jones-Wood
- ~ Kathleen MacKinnon
- ~ Mollie McCurdy
- ~ Dana Meeker (she was a fearless defender of the voiceless)
- ~ Barbara Meier
- ~ Kevin & Lora O’Brien
- ~ Anita Olive
- ~ Michael Senter
- ~ Pamela Ward
- ♥ **Betty Weimer**
~ Phillip Weimer
- ♥ **Christopher McGurk**
~ Michelle Brodeur
- ~ Brenda Harnisch
- ~ Txmq, Inc.
- ♥ **Dr. Celia Ward**
~ Sandra Randolph
- ♥ **Eleanor Goldberg**
~ Elizabeth Bartky
- ♥ **Jake & Nicky Richardson**
~ Alice Jarrell
- ♥ **Jim D’Archangelo**
~ Ana Kilday
- ~ Neena Porter
- ♥ **Judith Eichner**
~ Carol Klein
- ~ Elizabeth Mckew
- ♥ **Kim E. Hamam**
~ Christine Friesz
- ♥ **Lucas Elsner**
~ Workplace Giving Abbott Fund
- ♥ **Maggie**
~ Casey Harrington
- ♥ **Mairin Murphy**
~ Jane Petkofsky
- ♥ **Mark Thomas**
~ Lee Gurel & Linda Loy
- ♥ **Michael Mueller**
~ Richard & Joanne Mueller
- ♥ **Oscar, beloved greyhound**
~ Celita Mikesell
- ♥ **Roberta Jo McGowan**
~ Susan Clayman
- ♥ **Ronald Walls**
~ Katie Arn
- ♥ **Scott Mcatee, thank you for sharing your heart with animals. RIP & God bless!**
~ Mahwish Bajwa
- ♥ **Sherry**
~ Caryn Kauffman
- ♥ **Sweet Brody**
~ Richard & Joann Ackerman
- ♥ **Sweet Wilson**
~ Jamie Cato
- ♥ **Vivian & Caroline, in loving memory**
~ Natalie Smith



In Honor of

- ♥ **"Abby Mudpuddle Kerns"**
~ Lucinda Kerns
- ♥ **"Bogie"**
~ Alicia Covert
- ♥ **"Buddy"**
~ Linda Custer
- ♥ **"Cosmo"**
~ Katherine Trevino
- ♥ **"Emma," "Sable," "Spider," & "Bodhi"**
~ Elisabeth & Judith Clardy
- ♥ **"Gigi," adopted SPCA kitty**
~ Judy Hoy
- ♥ **"Jack"**
~ Meredith Morrissette
- ♥ **"Kermit" & "Boone," SPCA pups**
~ Jeannie & John Shiffer
- ♥ **"Malloy," a big bad cat**
~ Ms Dana Meeker
- ♥ **"Molly" & "Twix"**
~ Heather & Stephen Walrath
- ♥ **"Woody," my SPCA basset/beagle mix!**
~ Jill Welsh
- ♥ **"Zeppelin," a.k.a. Corky, SPCA pup**
~ Greg & Kathy McEvoy
- ♥ **Al Christian & Family**
~ Jeff Goldenson
- ♥ **All the good people who care & foster**
~ Mary Anne World
- ♥ **Ann Randazzo**
~ Andrew Randazzo
- ♥ **Caroline Curran's 2nd Birthday**
~ Stuart & Marjorie Cox
~ Christian & Carly Curran
~ Carla Rothgery
- ♥ **Chico Gholz**
~ Charles Gholz
- ♥ **Cindi, adopted from SPCA NOVA in 2010 & doing great!**
~ Kathleen Taimi & Tad McCall
- ♥ **Dale Deluca**
~ Matt Fell
- ♥ **David & Marcia Slone**
~ Chris Phillips
- ♥ **Debbie Armstrong**
~ Scott Donovan
- ♥ **Ellie Maaseide**
~ Mary Heath (for her birthday)
~ Debbie Miller (for her birthday)
~ Aisha Younes
- ♥ **Frank & Judy Bertini**
~ Angela Emerline
- ♥ **Genevieve & Emily, in hopes that other cats find their furever family like Emily did**
~ Monica Swyers
- ♥ **George & Mary Niebuhr**
~ Martin Breen
- ♥ **Harriet Antczak & Kelvin Yu's marriage**
~ Mary Jones
- ♥ **Hillary Haag, thank you for all your work & especially for your efforts to help me with Hershey**
~ Maxine Weinstein
- ♥ **Hunter Cotterman**
~ Eric Bischoff
- ♥ **Jane Paxton**
~ Jane Casamajor
- ♥ **Janice Koch**
~ Arlene Posner
- ♥ **Janice Kuch's retirement**
~ Susan O'Boyle
- ♥ **Jenna & Peter von Elling**
~ Jennifer Clark
- ♥ **John & Barbara Horn**
~ Carissa Milliken
- ♥ **John Klenk, Jr**
~ John & Linda Klenk
- ♥ **John Macleod**
~ Charles Klee
- ♥ **Jon Hukari**
~ William Ewing
- ♥ **Kathleen MacKinnon**
~ Lisa Bradley
- ♥ **Lily Simpson's birthday**
~ Stacy Small
- ♥ **Lisbeth Russell**
~ Joanie & Jarell Ross
- ♥ **Marissa Perilla**
~ Giselle Forman
~ Lora Loconti (for her birthday)
~ Gabriela Nguyen
~ Kerry Turek (for her birthday)
- ♥ **Mary & Monroe Bryant**
~ Monroe Bryant
- ♥ **Mary Portelly's Birthday**
~ Michael Portelly
- ♥ **Mary Snow & Darlene Minor**
~ Elizabeth Kipphut
- ♥ **Meghan & Chloe Puryear**
~ Jack Bondurant
- ♥ **Natacha Abad**
~ David Fairbrothers
- ♥ **Pat Hildibidal's retirement**
~ Steven Martin
~ Joyce Hill
~ Li Liu
- ♥ **Pat Sitnik**
~ Julianna Jefferson
- ♥ **Richard Ennis**
~ Priscilla Ennis
- ♥ **Riley & Jerry, both adopted from SPCA**
~ Mr & Mrs Kevin & Tracee Sutton
- ♥ **Rush Family**
~ Laura Simpson
- ♥ **Sarah Jacob's Birthday**
~ Sue Jacob
- ♥ **Scott McAtee**
~ Beth Crutchfield
- ♥ **Sebastian Chang**
~ Catherine Merrifield
- ♥ **Sophia Kelly**
~ Betsy Bensten
~ Kristin Magur
~ Kirsten Thompson
- ♥ **Sophie Moore**
~ Michelle Moore
- ♥ **SPCA, thank you for helping Bailey & Bobi!**
~ Kim Outlaw
- ♥ **SPCA NOVA with thanks for the beloved three cats in our home thanks to your work!**
~ Joann & Walter Shaub
- ♥ **SPCA NOVA's wonderful cat volunteers**
~ Heather Kirchart
- ♥ **SPCA volunteers for all of your work**
~ Marian & Bob Bayles
- ♥ **SPCA volunteers who helped us adopt our beloved cats in 2015**
~ Sandra Quinn
- ♥ **Sweet Ellie Mae. Love you so much! Hope you are doing well!**
~ Kimberly & Jonathan Avila
- ♥ **Terry Gehringer**
~ Kathryn Ernst
- ♥ **Thanks again for bringing me Shelby back in 2011!**
~ Jeff Capley
- ♥ **The mother who makes the world a better place**
~ Haley Curley
- ♥ **Trish Kyle of HBCPK!**
~ Sarah Dempsey
- ♥ **Wilson Alink**
~ Kelley Dean



Guardian Angels Needed for Cats & Dogs

Want to help a homeless animal but can't adopt one? Join our **Guardian Angel Program** for as little as \$30. Your support will help provide for a cat or dog until he or she can be placed into a loving home. In return, you'll get photos and updates on your chosen animal.

Apply Online: www.spcanova.org/help/ga.php

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THANK YOU TO

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- America's Charities
- Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
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- Global Impact
- Local United Way campaigns

TEACHER ALFONSE LOPEZ

teaches more than Spanish to his third grade Spanish immersion class at Groveton Elementary School. He teaches his students about the proper care of animals and that hurting animals is not OK. For Valentine's Day, instead of exchanging sugary cards, the students brought small gifts to make the lives of rescued animals better. Their efforts resulted in a ton of treats, food, toys, and bowls for SPCA NOVA animals.

IN THE SPRING,

students at Key Elementary School in Arlington raised money for SPCA NOVA through the Team Kids Challenge, a school-based youth development program that provides children with age-appropriate ways of helping their community. Team Kids is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, whose motto is "Empowering Children to change to world." Students completed several service projects to assist organizations in their community and then planned a fun school carnival. Students in the fifth and sixth grades chose SPCA NOVA as the beneficiary of their kid-run and kid-planned carnival. The creativity, commitment, and energy of the students were incredible! They planned (and built) games and rides for which students and their families bought tickets. The carnival raised over \$1,500! SPCA President Dana Meeker had the opportunity to meet the future leaders, Key Elementary Principal Dr. Myers, Team Kids Board Member Christine Schaubach, and Team Kids Coach Lupe at a check presentation assembly where the school and students' pride and excitement were on full display.

IN DECEMBER,

JUNIOR Scout Troop 865 of Alexandria planned and executed a cupcake sale to raise money for rescued animals. In addition to cupcakes, they sold dog biscuits and an impressive array of cookies and other goodies. Homemade catnip toys rounded out the sale. Their efforts raised over \$500. Thanks to these devoted animal lovers and their supporters!

IN FEBRUARY AND

May, SPCA NOVA volunteers crafted adorable baked goods and hosted bake sales at the Purcellville Pet Valu to boost the SPCA NOVA coffers. Hungry patrons helped raise \$200 to help prepare us for kitten season.

BOWSA WOWSA!

(**THAT'S** dog for "Way to Go!") to the children of the Kilmer Center Room 6 who made and sold dog treats for a service learning project, the proceeds from which were donated to SPCA NOVA so they could become a Guardian Angel for an SPCA rescue.

MUCH APPRECIATION TO

Dulin United Methodist Church of Falls Church who hosted their 2016 Blessing of the Animals last September and took up an offering for SPCA NOVA to help us with our mission.

THANKS TO THE

artists of PBC Creatives and artists Anne Stine, Amy Sabat, Beth Duncan, and Deb Cadenas for contributing their talents to paint beautiful designs on clay pots that were sold at SPCA NOVA's sale table at the Purcellville Arts Festival. Volunteers filled some pots with herb plants and others with donated goodies to make "gift basket pots." The pots were a great hit, generating over \$300 to support our rescue and adoption mission.



These are just some of the pots decorated to help raise money for SPCA NOVA.

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Donation Amount:

- \$25 \$50 \$75
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- In Memory of:

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Name: _____

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Sign me up for your: e-Newsletter Print Newsletter

Make checks payable to **SPCA of Northern Virginia** and mail to:
SPCA of Northern Virginia, P.O. Box 100220, Arlington, VA 22210

If your company participates with the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), designate donation to "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Northern Virginia."



United Way of the National Capital Area
United Way NCA Designation Code 8155



CFC Designation Code 94873

If your company participates with the America's Charities Campaign, you can donate to the SPCA of Northern Virginia, #19137.

The SPCA of Northern Virginia is an IRS-registered 501(c)(3) charity, EIN 54-1627788, listed under the name Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Northern Virginia.

Remembering Barbara Cohen

♥ BY *Dana Meeker*

The animal welfare community lost one of its warriors when Barbara Cohen passed away on February 8 after a long battle with cancer. Barbara spent much of her life helping animals and had served as SPCA NOVA's dog committee chair since the late 1990s.

In the early 1970s, long before Animal Planet made animal advocacy cool, Barbara took courses to become a licensed humane investigator in Virginia, joining SPCA NOVA founder Edith von

Stuemer in the field. Back then, humane investigators were not paid, putting themselves on the line solely to help animals.

For the better part of 40 years, she devoted evenings and weekends – because she still had a full-time job – following up on calls, letters, and emails from people reporting situations of animal abuse, neglect, and abandonment. She retired as a humane investigator in 2009.

One of her daughters, Jennifer, said, "I remember her crawling through filth, fleas, and

roaches jumping on both of us, to rescue an abandoned dog who hadn't had human contact, fresh food, or water for over a week only to be bitten, but nevertheless, she persisted and grabbed him, literally loving him back to life."

Over the years, Barbara and Edith saved hundreds of cats and dogs. People who later adopted them have sent letters to SPCA NOVA attesting to the bonds they were able to develop with these formerly-tormented animals. Thanks to Barbara, these

animals finally got a chance to live the good life.

The strength and courage she brought to humane investigations were hallmarks of her personality. She could be intimidating and abrupt, but there was *nothing* she wouldn't do to help an animal in need. Helping animals was her calling. We miss the safety net Barbara provided to Virginia's animals, and we miss her.





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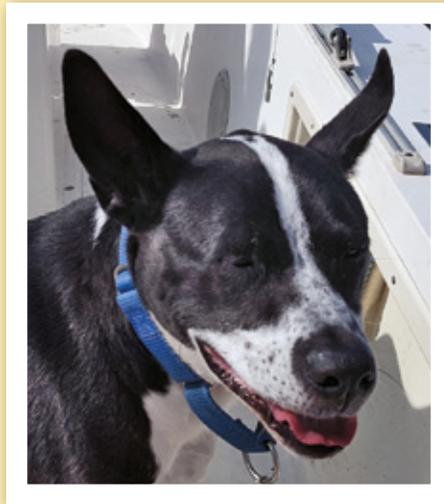
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Rescuing Homeless Kittens

Learn what to do if you find
kittens outside

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Calming the Storm Within

An anxious dog learns to
focus on good things and
finds a forever home

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Mourning a Fallen Hero

Our tribute to former
humane investigator
Barbara Cohen

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