

# Paws To Consider

Spring 2003

## Pit Bulls — Problems or Pals?

By Joan Hughes

“You’ve got to be kidding!” “No way!” “Those dogs are vicious!”

These are a few of the objections voiced by would-be dog adopters if the subject of a pit bull as a pet is raised. They most likely have never owned or known a pit bull.

Many of the breed’s defenders, on the other hand, have raised their dogs with other dogs, cats and children, and praise their pets as loyal, gentle and affectionate.

So who’s right? And just what is a pit bull anyway?

In fact, the term “pit bull” is fuzzy. The breeds most often identified by this term are the American Pit Bull Terrier, the American Staffordshire Terrier, and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. All evolved from the crossing in England of bull- and bear-baiting bulldogs with terriers. These dogs were used for the “sport” of dog fighting when England banned bull baiting in the 19th Century.

Pit bulls today are usually mixtures but can be traced to any of these breeds. Unfortunately, they are often still victims of a criminal element that persists in staging illegal dog fights and in using them as weapons when committing crimes.

Dogs raised on beatings and starvation will have issues — perhaps shyness or fearfulness. In the case of a pit bull bred to fight, it will usually be aggression against other dogs, not people. Remember, when pit bulls were fought by organized

dog fighters, owners had to be able to handle them in the pit without getting bitten. This attitude is not often appreciated by the general public.

But as most of us know, a dog that receives love, and training with positive reinforcement, is a wonderful companion. At present the SPCA of Northern Virginia has four pit bulls available for adoption and they deserve better lives than what they endured before their rescue.

Meet three-year-old Doeja who had spent most of her life at the end of a chain. Doeja can be dog-aggressive, but is very people-friendly. She needs an experienced owner who will reinforce the obedience training she has received from the SPCA.



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The SPCA of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit rescue organization. We rely on membership dues, donations and fund-raising activities for revenue. Our Voluntary Board of Directors, committee members and volunteers are responsible for all SPCA activities. We do not have a shelter facility and depend on foster parents to care for domestic animals until adoption.

Paws to Consider is published by the SPCA of Northern Virginia. Permission must be granted for article reprints. If you would like to submit stories of interest or be added to our mailing list, please direct all correspondence to:

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Ginger is four years old and smart. As with so many of our dogs, her earlier life was one of neglect, but she is ready to please an owner who can make up with kindness what was lacking before.



Jasmine, a gentle three-year-old, came with her own family of nine puppies born last May.



McKenzie (Mac) is the only one of her pups still awaiting adoption. (Jasmine won't reveal the pups' father but an anonymous beagle is under suspicion.) Mac is an extrovert and, because of his early rescue, is well adjusted.



Because of their breed, these four dogs suffer from bad PR. With owners who are willing to commit the time and effort, they can be devoted family members. Visit them in person at one of our adoption open houses (dates can be found on page 5) or call us at 703-799-9390. Make nurture triumph over nature.

# Six Persians In Despair

By Kathleen MacKinnon

SPCA volunteers see many cases of animal neglect and abuse. Even so, they were not prepared for what they would find after receiving a call about six neglected Persians. The initial impression was one of utter despair.

Recently, a call was received on the SPCA voice mail, which began the saga of the six purebred Persian felines. An elderly woman suffering from Alzheimer's disease was the owner of the Persians. She had at one time bred these highly in demand cats, but in her condition she could no longer provide the care they needed. The woman's cousin stepped in to aid these desolate creatures and believed them to be between two and five years of age. The cousin described the cats as "dirty" and she pleaded for assistance. She had nowhere else to turn.

The SPCA of Northern Virginia strives to help in desperate situations such as this and thus made a promise to help the Persians find new homes. The six kitties were taken to a local veterinary hospital for exams and overdue vaccinations. It was determined that the cats were, on the average, ten years of age. Their "dirty" appearance was an understatement.



Before

Persians require a regular grooming routine because of their long-haired coats. After more investigation, and with the opinion of the veterinarian, it was discovered that these cats had been neglected for at least three years.

The Persians had been confined to two small rooms in a basement. Although they had been provided with food and water to sustain them, no other care had been given during the time of their confinement. Feces and urine were amassed in their living area. The once elegant Persian's coats

displayed their squalor. It was necessary to have them all shaved.



After

At the veterinary hospital, William, Harry, Catherine, Andrew, Charles, and Elizabeth were given feline Leukemia/AIDS tests, blood work and vaccinations.

Gratefully, they all have tested negative for feline diseases and their blood work showed no signs of thyroid, liver, or kidney problems. A few of them are feisty and extremely happy to be on their way to enjoying new lives. Understandably, some of these precious felines are suffering from depression and stress. Their lives have been upturned and they will need a little time to comprehend that they have been given a second chance at lives filled with love and caring.

We are happy to report that Elizabeth has already begun her new life. One of the veterinarians who helped care for Elizabeth has decided to adopt her and make her part of a loving family.



Dr. Kirchart of Columbia Pike Animal Hospital with Elizabeth

The remaining felines will soon receive much needed dental care and neutering. They are all making great strides recovering from the three neglectful years they have suffered.

If you would like to bring one of these lovely Persians into your home as either a foster cat or as a new member of your family, please contact us at 703-799-9390 or by e-mail [SPCANOVA@aol.com](mailto:SPCANOVA@aol.com) They *all* deserve your love...



2003  
CAT ADOPTION SCHEDULE  
12:00 - 3:00  
(schedule is subject to change)



WHEN

WHERE

LOCATIONS

Sunday Feb 2  
Saturday Feb 15  
Saturday Feb 22  
Sunday March 2  
Saturday March 15  
Saturday March 29  
Sunday April 6  
Saturday April 19  
Saturday April 26  
Sunday May 4  
Saturday May 17  
Saturday May 24  
Sunday June 1  
Saturday June 21  
Saturday June 28

Fairfax  
Falls Church  
Alexandria  
Fairfax  
Falls Church  
Springfield  
Fairfax  
Falls Church  
Alexandria  
Fairfax  
Falls Church  
Springfield  
Fairfax  
Falls Church  
Alexandria

**ALEXANDRIA**  
Petsmart  
Potomac Yard Shopping Center  
3351 Jefferson Davis Hwy.  
(703) 739-4844

**FAIRFAX**  
Petsmart  
Fair Lakes Shopping Center  
12971 Fair Lakes Center  
(703) 802-1027

**FALLS CHURCH**  
Petsmart  
Willston Shopping Center  
6100 Arlington Blvd.  
(703) 536-2708

**SPRINGFIELD**  
Petsmart  
6535 Frontier Drive  
(703) 922-4990

*Visit our site to see some of the many cats and dogs available.*



*A new best friend could be waiting.*



# Smokey's Story

By Leslie Grabowski



Smokey

*In April of 2001, a very pregnant Husky and her mate, a Rottweiler/Husky mix, were rescued from deplorable circumstances by SPCA humane investigators. Ultimately, the SPCA found loving homes for both of the adult dogs and all of the puppies. This is the story of the male of that pair, Smokey.*

Amy Rider is a Special Education teacher at Langley High School who had known since she left home that she wanted a dog of her own. In early 2002, settled and with a home of her own, she decided it was time to look for the perfect dog. She began with the Internet and the SPCA website, where one of the dogs caught her eye. When she went to the Adoption Day, however, she met another dog, Smokey, who had been listed for adoption with the SPCA for many months. Unfortunately, big black dogs are often the last to be adopted, and Smokey is a big black dog. Family after family had passed him by, afraid of his size, or his breed, or just in search of a smaller dog. Amy Rider, however, had no such reservations. Having grown up in a family with large dogs, Amy was not afraid of them, and she wasn't looking for a lapdog. Amy fell in love with Smokey instantly. In her words, "(he) put his head in my lap and I knew right then that he was my dog!" She filled out the application that day, and couldn't wait to have the housecheck completed so that Smokey could become part of her family. In May, the adoption was finalized, and Smokey became Whidbey, named for an island near Seattle, Amy's home. From the beginning, Whidbey and Amy were a team; a dog and a woman meant for each other. Whidbey joined Amy on her daily runs, and curled up next to her when she watched TV. Before long she was able to let him off-leash for short periods, and he would come right back to her when she

called. Amy also coaches rowing, and Whidbey is right at home in her coaching boat.

In the summer of 2002, Amy decided to take Whidbey to Washington State to meet her family. Although initially concerned that his carsickness would make the long trip a disaster, Amy was delighted when he seemed to conquer that, only throwing up twice on the way westward and not at all after that. Amy's mom and sister have dogs, and Whidbey had a great time in Washington playing with his new "cousins". He also proved to be a gentle, cuddly giant with Amy's young niece, Jordan. Amy and Whidbey covered 10,000 miles that trip, and Whidbey has swum in the Gulf of Mexico as well as the Pacific.

Amy and Whidbey are clearly a match made in heaven. As Amy told the SPCA, "I am so in love with this dog, and I thank you so much".

Whidbey is also responsible for Amy's first meeting with her boyfriend, David, a SPCA volunteer

whom she met when she brought Whidbey to an Adoption Day to show him off. David was walking Shelby, the dog that Amy had originally been interested in, and they discovered that they had more in common than just a love of dogs.

As an added bonus for the SPCA, Amy became a volunteer! She now walks dogs at Adoption Days, and is able to tell potential adopters that sometimes that "unadoptable" big black dog can be a gift from heaven, like Whidbey.

*Note: Shelby, another "big black dog", is still waiting for a home. His photo and story can be seen on our website at [www.spcanova.org](http://www.spcanova.org).*



Whidbey & Amy

# Our Lives Are Brighter

By Linda Hook



Deano

*In the Spring/Summer 2002 newsletter of the SPCA of Northern Virginia, the cover story was an article pertaining to a cat named Deano.*

We are the lucky parents of this wonderful feline and can't thank the SPCA enough for bringing him into our lives.

In the fall of 2001, my husband and I decided that we were once again ready to open our home and hearts to loving animals. In the two years prior we had lost three pets. We had so much love to give but our hearts had to be completely mended before this love could be given out. In February of 2000 we lost our cat, Peaches, who shared our lives for more than 21 years. That same summer we felt ready to give our hearts to another animal and adopted two kittens. Unbeknownst to us, and to the agency we adopted from, one of the kittens had feline leukemia and only survived three months. His littermate succumbed to this disease after being with us for 10 months. The pain of losing two animals in such a short time was more than we could bear and we had thoughts of maybe never having another healthy animal. However, in time we decided that once again we were ready to give our love to other pets.

We began searching and discovered the Northern Virginia SPCA web page. Our eyes and hearts were immediately drawn to Muffin and Felicia (now named Buffy). We discovered that they were being fostered together and made the inquiry to adopt them. In the meantime, I contacted someone whose opinion I value highly and asked for her recommendations. She immediately asked if I was going to adopt Muffin and

Felicia how could I leave Deano behind. I was so interested in the kittens that I had failed to read about their surrogate father, Deano, who was pictured alongside the two kittens. Not wanting to split up this loving family. I inquired to see if we could adopt all three and the rest is history.

We have never met a more loving cat than Deano. He has taught not only Muffin and Buffy the meaning of love, but he has also taught us so much more. If you read the article about Deano, you know that he has had a very rough life and we are so glad to give him the life he deserves. From the day we first met him until this day he has never shown one sign of anger. We know now had we separated these three wonderful animals they all would have suffered. The kittens would have lost the father image that Deano provides them and Deano would have been all alone once again. Deano has a loving home now and will for the rest of his life. I didn't think it possible to have so much love for one animal, but he has shown us that there is never too much love.



Muffin



Buffy

So, if you happen to be walking down the street and come upon an animal in need, please extend your hand. There aren't very many Deano's out there, but there are some and they are just waiting for someone to be their friend.



**Alumni Cats & Dogs:** *Wouldn't you like to tell the world about the wonderful pet you adopted from the SPCA of Northern Virginia?* Now, you can! On our website ([www.spcanova.org](http://www.spcanova.org)) we have pages for "Alumni Cats & Dogs". E-mail the webmaster at [mary\\_portelly@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_portelly@yahoo.com) with a photo of the pet (jpg, gif, or tif), it's name (plus name it had before you got it- if appropriate), date adopted and tell us how it's doing now. Or by mail: SPCA NOVA, c/o **Mary Portelly**, P.O. Box 10504, Arlington, VA 22210.







## Socks

Socks is a beautiful black and white male tuxedo cat who is about 7 years old and has been in our care since September 2002. He previously lived most of his adult life with a canine companion that died in 1999. Since that time, Socks has apparently suffered from separation anxiety and manifests this anxiety by pulling out his hair.

A battery of tests and various treatments have seemingly ruled out a medical condition, such as a skin allergy, as the root cause of his behavior. It is common for cats that are depressed or suffering from stress to react with excessive grooming.

Socks needs a quiet home where loving human companionship is readily available. Someone who is generally home during the day would work best as he becomes anxious when left alone for long periods of time. He isn't overly needy; he just likes having people around him. He needs some interactive play during the day to ensure he gets some release for any pent-up energy. He loves to be petted (under the chin is a favorite!). And, under the right circumstances, Socks also likes feline and canine companionship. The right friendly cat (probably female) or dog could provide Socks with much needed companionship.

Socks is a very sweet and affectionate cat who deserves love and companionship. What he needs most right now is a loving, patient home. If you think your home might be a good fit for our friend Socks, he will certainly reward you with his loyalty.



Donations can be made easily using the form on the back cover, or to make a donation by credit card please visit our website [www.spcanova.org](http://www.spcanova.org), and click on the **Network for Good** banner. Your charitable gift will make a lifesaving difference to the animals! Please remember the SPCA of Northern Virginia is a private, non-profit charitable organization. We do not receive any government funding or tax dollars. We are supported completely by private donations.

# Every Wednesday

By Carol Levie

If there is one day of the week I dread, it's Wednesday. "Hump Day" to some, it's "Dump Day" to me. Every Wednesday, I pick up messages left on the SPCA's dog line and return the calls. Some are easy—like people wanting information on low-cost neutering or choosing the right pet. Some are even exciting—someone wants to adopt one of our dogs. Unfortunately, the majority of calls are from people who want to get rid of their pets.

On occasion, these people have valid and understandable reasons: a transfer overseas to a country with a lengthy quarantine; a sudden, severe illness; a drastic—probably permanent—change in the family's financial status. But those are reasons I rarely hear. Instead, I hear:

- "The kids won't take care of him any more."
- "He's too active...knocks the children down."
- "She won't stay in the yard and keeps running off."
- "He barks when I'm gone and the neighbors complain."
- "We can't keep her because we just had a baby."

And on and on. Yes, Wednesdays are frustrating and disheartening. Though I only take calls relating to dogs, I'm sure it's the same situation on the cat line, with comparable reasons having to deal with easily solvable issues. Sadly, by the time people call the SPCA, their minds are usually made up. Offering suggestions and solutions is met with objections and the continuing refrain, "but I just can't keep him."

What can we—both as individuals and as a humane organization—do to stem this growing, "disposable" mentality? As an organization, we have a responsibility to educate the public, offering to speak to groups and other organizations, and to get involved with the public as frequently as possible. As individuals, it's more challenging. But there are plenty of things we can do. We can arm ourselves with knowledge—about animal behavior, health problems, and so on—and with a roster of resources for people looking for help. That way, the next time a neighbor, relative, or co-worker complains about a problem with a pet, we can offer solutions or referrals, rather than just commiserating and offering sympathy.

There are loads of resources available; many are free, some have fees. But they're there...and that's the most important thing. There are vets, behaviorists, and trainers who specialize in pets with problems (and their humans!). There are books and websites with an incredible amount of good information available for the do-it-yourselfer. Education is the only preventive course for this epidemic.

If you would like to learn more about the available resources, just call the SPCA's dog line...any Wednesday!



# On Patrol . . .



The SPCA of Northern Virginia is the only all-volunteer, non-profit rescue organization in Northern Virginia whose court appointed licensed Humane Investigators enforce laws relating to animal cruelty. They generously volunteer their time to confront cruelty and indifference every day. Some of our recent cases include:



Responding to a call of a dog being kept in a garage, SPCA Humane Investigators found a seven-month old Chocolate Labrador inside a dark windowless garage littered with broken glass, trash and dog waste.

The puppy, which was muzzled, was lying in a dog crate with his head between his front paws — his eyes appearing lifeless and devoid of expression. There were two dog bowls nearby, which were both empty. Upon removing the muzzle the puppy began to leap ecstatically around the garage, free for the first time in his entire life.

A young man paid \$300 for the puppy he called Rusty. He told the investigators that his parents did not want the dog in the house and that Rusty was muzzled because he barked.

Once the owner was informed that under Virginia law he could be prosecuted for animal cruelty he readily agreed to release Rusty to the SPCA.

Rusty has since been adopted by a wonderful family and renamed Jefferson.



Responding to an anonymous telephone call, a SPCA Humane Investigator learned that a young child had placed a seven-week old kitten inside a microwave oven and turned it on.

After discussing possible legal action, the Humane Investigator persuaded the family to relinquish custody of the kitten and two other young cats into our care.

The kitten, named Precious, had sustained burns to her ears, stomach and tail, which had become infected. She was placed on antibiotics to treat the infection and sadly, two inches of her tail required amputation.

Happily, Precious now has a new home and has all but forgotten the horrors of her past.



Please, help us save the lives of more abused animals like these. By sending the largest gift you can manage, the SPCA can reach out to stop animal abuse and neglect. Your financial support has never been more needed than it is today. Their only hope is caring people like you.



## GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

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### *In Memory Of*

**“CANDY”** who passed away 4/1/02 16 yrs. old

*Cynthia Szymanski & Steve Hudak*

**LLOYD ALAN SHANKS**

*Christina Groover*

**FRED GARNER**

*Marilynn Katein, Animal Corner*

**ROBERT B. WICKMAN** beloved Uncle of Eric Wickman

*Colette Wickman*

**SUZANNE REDDAN**

*Dana Meeker*

**Nancy Herndon’s wonderful Doberman “JAKE”**

*Dana Meeker*

**“ARTIS”** (former SPCA cat “Chance” )

*Julianna Bickus & Tony Trojanowski*

**“WALTER”** Schmid wonderful dog of Tom & Beth Schmid

*Amy Augenblick*

**“TAMMY”**

*Debra Hollander*

**“LUCKY DOG”**

*Lisa Diernisse*

**Our Beloved Companions “MISHA” & “MERLIN.”** You are forever in our hearts. We miss you!

*Sandy & Gary McKenzie*

**My Beloved “CURLY” & “JYNX”**

*Karen Wruk*

**ELIZABETH “KIT” HENN**

*Gary & Charlotte Knipling  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard C. Roth*

**“MAGGIE”** beloved dog of Jim & Barbara Fagan

*Pat Hill*

**“RALEIGH”** beloved cat of Monte & Michelle Hill

*Pat Hill*

**ANITA JOAN MURPHY**

*Pauline Ruth Bartman  
Mary G. Keller  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Dunham  
Jeff & Marilyn Mason  
Gloria De Perignat  
Jim & Ali Myska  
Donald Daniels*

**“C.J.”** cat companion of Lynne Westmoreland

*Susan Frikken*

**“COOPER”** dog companion of Tori Oster & Deb Hanrahan

*Susan Frikken*

**“ANDE”**

*Mary Schwarzwaldner*

**“BUCKY”, “STYMIE” & “JANE DOG”**

*Bob & Cathy Eaglen*

**“MAGGIE MONNOT”**

*Annette Lupo*

**“LADY”**

*Joan Morgan*

**NANCY BULLEN**

*AAMVA/Arlington  
Lori C. Cohen  
Debra Ornelas  
Nancy Coyle*

**AURIE CONLEY**

*Carol Ghent & Juliet Stovall*

**ANN PILLOW**

*Cindy & Todd Lowman*

**EBBIE MEERMANS**

*Kathleen Reilly*

**“MOJO”**

*Lori Liddick*

**MIA SINDONI**

*Joseph & Virginia DeChristopher*

**“CHESTER”**

*Sharon Hale*

**“TUK TUK”**

*Val Garcia*

**Jackie Colclough’s Labrador “MARLEY”**

*Marjorie Krumholz*

**John Buckley & Michael Duffy’s “PUGNACIOUS”**

*William Redpath*

**Brian Morton’s “BUSTER”**

*Kathleen Cancelose*

**MARGARET W. REDICK**

*Lee & Marty Talbot*

**CARRIE BOULIS**

*Amy Grose*

**“MALLEY”**

*Deborah Outlaw*

**MOLLY WOODDELL**

*Northern VA Veterinary Medical Association*

**“SUGAR”, “BLANCHE” Arason, “BLUEBERRY” & all those that could not be saved**

*Dana Meeker*

**“BLACKIE”**

*Richard Haynes & Mitchell Miller*

**In loving memory of “TOFU”**

*John & Marie Roby*

**CHARLOTTE SUMMERALL & “PHILLY”**

*Joni Klemencic*

**“SESAME”**

*Barbara Cohen*

**“SAMSON”** beloved dog of Kristen & Richard Eitzel

*Isabelle Eitzel*

**KERRY ABERNETHY**

*Margo Wiegenstein*

**“BIGGIE”** the beagle, dearly loved by Soo, Yeon & Jea Long

*Julia Hanweck*

**SHELBY ANN HARRIS**

*Paul A. Majka*



# GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

**“MIMOSA” & “CHIVAS”**

*Diane Murphy*

**“BEAU” & “MOUSE”**

*Karen M. Wruk*

**“JAKE”**

*Nancy Herndon*

**GLORIA THOMAS**

*Patricia T. Szurek*

**“TRIXIE”**

*Edith Von Stuemmer*

**“GEORGIA”**

*Edith Von Stuemmer*



## *In Honor Of*

**“EMILY”**

*Laurie Parkhill*

**“ACACIA”**

*Val Garcia*

**John Buckley & Michael Duffy’s “GIRLFRIEND”**

*William Redpath*

**RAY PIERCE**

*Sarah Blowers*

*Michael P. Davis*

*Claudia Harris*

*Patty Szurek*

**DEBBIE BERRY, x-mas gift for a dedicated SPCA volunteer**

*Virginia Berry*

**DIANE ROADCAP**

*Anita Herrera*

**MARY KING & SHIRLEY KEECH**

*Michael Maleski*

**SHEILA REYNOLDS**

*Mr. & Mrs. John M. Reynolds*

**DEVIN ROSENTHAL**

*Anne Turner*

**For “CRIMSON’S” surgery**

*Nathaniel P. Breed, Jr.*

*Johnna Brown*

**For “GEORGIA”**

*Elise Rengers*

*Mami Hasegawa*

*Mary Goodspeed*

*Sharon Dyer*



**GEORGIA**

To those of you who sent donations to help with Georgia’s medical bills, I would like to say “THANK YOU!”

She was in my care for 9 months, and everything possible was done to try to make her well. Exploratory surgery revealed that her abscesses were due to an incompetent spay job with old sutures left inside. They were wrapped around her intestines amongst large amounts of pus and one ovary which should have been removed.


She saw a specialist for internal medicine who said her immune system was too weak to fight the infection and referred me to Dr. Jane Morse of Animal Holistic Home Care. With herbal and homeopathic treatment the wounds finally healed, the pus was gone, and Georgia began to feel better.

Then, over the holidays, she became weak but her appetite was still very good. On December 30th I realized that Georgia was suffering — she could no longer walk. I called Dr. Morse, who came to my home, gave her an injection to relax, and then put her to sleep. Georgia died peacefully in my arms, knowing that she was with someone who loved her very much.


Dr. Morse performed an autopsy which showed that her liver and kidneys were full of abscesses. We did the right thing at the right time, but that didn’t make it any easier.

Georgia was a beautiful shining little soul who fought so hard to live, and she will be in our hearts forever.

~ Edith Von Stuemmer



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



## FUNDRAISING NEWS

Fundraising is such an essential part of the SPCA. We are not just raising money — we are raising awareness. Each function or event we attend as a group spreads our message. These events also bring the volunteer network closer together on a common level of interest — the animals!

Several fundraising events are in the works. We need your help to make all this happen. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer for an event.

Give us a call—(703) 799-9390

Or sign up for an event via our website—[www.spcanova.org](http://www.spcanova.org)

### Tattoo Clinic Saturday, March 22, 2003

The SPCA of Northern Virginia is having its twice-yearly pet tattoo clinic. Tattoos will be performed by Tommy and Nancy Mantlo from Richmond, well-known pet tattooers with over 25 years experience. This is a great opportunity to protect your pets from theft, or in case they get lost. You'll choose the alpha-numeric combination to be tattooed on your pet, and you'll choose the service to register it with.

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, March 22, 2003; 10 am - 1 pm.
- **Location:** Webers Pet Supermarket in Chantilly; 14508 Lee Rd # G, Chantilly, VA 20151
- **Cost:** \$15 if you sign up ahead of the date, \$18 for walk-ins.
- **Sign-Up:** Email the Clinic Coordinator at [TesterDesp@aol.com](mailto:TesterDesp@aol.com) or call us at (703) 799-9390.

### "You'll be seated at the Cindy table..."

SPCA volunteer Karen McDonald and her boyfriend, Mark Helm, had been together for 6 years and had already adopted three SPCA animals when they became engaged in December 2001. Karen and Mark wanted to make their September 2002 wedding special and meaningful, and they devised a way to do that which reflected their deep commitment to animals. First they became Guardian Angels to eleven of the SPCA's available dogs, donating money to help support each of these dogs for three months. Then instead of having the tables at their reception designated by numbers, they named each of the eleven tables after the dogs that they had chosen. Another SPCA volunteer helped Karen print up 5x7 cards with each dog's

name, photo, and story as told on the website, and Karen posted the appropriate card at each table.



While wedding guests were initially bewildered to see their reception table assignment as "Cindy" or "Rebel", most agreed that the novel idea was typical of Karen and Mark. As one old friend said, "Karen is one of the biggest animal-lovers I know, and it doesn't surprise me at all that she found a way to combine helping homeless animals with seating guests at her wedding!"

To become a Guardian Angel to an SPCA dog, visit our website at [www.spcanova.org](http://www.spcanova.org).



SPCA of Northern Virginia  
 Post Office Box 10504  
 Arlington, VA 22210-1504  
 Phone: 703-799-9390  
 Email: SPCANOVA@aol.com



### Receiving more than one copy of our newsletter? Moving?

Mail forwarding greatly increases the cost of our mailings. You can help us keep our administrative costs down by notifying us directly of changes in address. Please call or write us so that we can update our records. You may also use the newsletter subscription form on our web site [www.spcanova.org](http://www.spcanova.org) to notify us of changes.

**Do you have a vehicle that you no longer want or need?**

*Would you like to dispose of that vehicle, gain a tax deduction, and benefit the SPCA at the same time? Donate it!*



It's easy, and your unwanted car can help us save animals' lives. For more information, please visit our website at [www.spcanova.org](http://www.spcanova.org), or send an e-mail message to [spcanova\\_cars@yahoo.com](mailto:spcanova_cars@yahoo.com). You may also call the SPCA at (703) 799-9390 and leave a message.

We accept most vehicles—in almost any condition—and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. We will arrange for pickup at a convenient time. All it takes is a call!



Thank you!

**SPCA of Northern Virginia**  
[www.spcanova.org](http://www.spcanova.org)  
 (703) 799-9390

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**Yes, I want to help the animals. My check is enclosed for: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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I am interested in volunteering. Please send a volunteer form.

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- Associate Membership—\$10.00  
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