An Update from President Bill

During these unusual times, we are home much more than in the past, our 5 cats have really embraced the change and have increased their demands; open the door, feed me, no not that stuff again, pet me, hey that is my chair, read my mind and leave me alone. They have us well trained but we could not live without them.

For the Orange County Humane Society, the new normal has brought many challenges and kept our team very busy helping the animals of Orange County and beyond. Since January, the TNR program has provided spay/neuter and medical care to over 300 feral and homeless cats. OCHS has spent $5,725 on providing pet food to citizens, feral colonies and the Food Bank. And OCHS has provided over $16,000 of medical care for sick and injured dogs & cats through our Pets In Place program. These efforts to help the animals of Orange County, have stretched our resources with no end in sight and with the additional challenges created by this extraordinary time.

Fund raising during Covid-19 has been greatly reduced but the need is greater than ever. Please consider donating to the Orange County Humane Society so we can continue to care for the animals of Orange County. We truly appreciate those friends that continue to support our mission to help reduce the suffering of animals in Orange County, as we have for the last 62 years. We also greatly appreciate our partners; Two Mauds, Inc., The Petco Charities, and Amazon Smiles for their partnership and financial assistance.

Amazon Smile program
Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchase, at no additional cost to you. Go to smile.amazon.com and select Orange County Humane Society of VA. It is that easy to help us help the animals of Orange County.
What is TNVR?

TNVR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Release) involves humanely trapping homeless cats and transporting them to a veterinary clinic where they are neutered. They may also receive a health check, vaccinations, and are treated for routine medical conditions. After surgery, the cat recuperates for a day or two and is then returned back to his colony habitat where caring individuals feed, water & provide some shelter. At Orange County Humane Society we try our best to take kittens and friendly cats that are socialized out of the colony to be vetted and placed with one of the many rescues that get them adopted out to good homes. TNVR quickly stabilizes and reduces the colony’s population by ending reproduction and by removing socialized cats. Since the cats are no longer reproducing, the colony will reduce in size.

TNVR has so many benefits for both the cats and humans caring for them.
1. Mating behaviors cease such as yowling, wandering, spraying, and fighting.
2. Improvement in the physical health of the cats
3. Cats are vaccinated against rabies
4. Cats no longer need to go through the stress of mating and pregnancy

Can you help us continue our program?
We are going on five years and have vetted, neutered and placed over 2000 cats. Can’t stop now! Please send donation to: OCHS, PO Box 852, Locust Grove, VA 22508 🐾

Lupin’s Story

Lupin was a starving and wounded cat found crying and begging for food from anyone who would listen to him in the parking lot of Locust Grove shopping center. One of our volunteers was having coffee at Witches Brew and saw Lupin in the parking lot. She bought some food from Dollar Store and fed him while her husband went to pick up a trap. He easily went in the trap for more food. After a thorough check up and wound care from Dr. Anita Walton, he was boarded to heal and get neutered. One of Locust Grove Vet clients, Beth Winters offered to foster him and maybe give him a forever home. Now he is looking good, gaining weight, and becoming social.

This cat was going to die of starvation because we later learned there were about a dozen more just like him. Animal Control believes that he came from a hoarding situation that just released the cats that she couldn’t afford to feed, so the cats never learned hunting or survival skills.

Thanks to Beth and her husband along with Cause 4 Paws and several other individuals that have since taken in cats like Lupin from the same area, these once poor starving cats are now thriving and are getting vet care and forever homes. Orange County Humane Society has a motto “it takes a village” to help abandoned dogs and cats, to TNR feral, free roaming cats and foster and move socialized kittens on to adoptions. Thank you to “The Village” of individual citizens that use their time, money and heart to help these beautiful deserving animals in need! 🐾

Feeding Cats?

We’ll Help Fix Them!
**FREE or very low-cost spay/neuter and vaccinations for feral (by of people) or unowned outdoor cats.**
**We will loan humane traps and show you how to capture cats safely.**
**Cats will be healthy and safe, and no more kittens will be born.**
**Don’t let a few cats turn into dozens. Contact us today!**

Contact Orange County Humane Society at 540-672-0069
ADVICE FROM THE DOC:
Healthy Pet, Happy Pet
by Anita Walton, DVM, Locust Grove Vet

My top 2 pet health concerns

Obesity has become a big problem with pets. Most pets become obese because their people associate giving food and treats with expressing love for their pet. Food is not love, not even close. Overfeeding creates health and behavior problems. It leads to stress on bones, joints, and organs, which can lead to multiple diseases and very poor quality of life. The good news is that this is often an easy fix. First, limit calories using a lower calorie food or limiting the amount you feed (you may need your vet’s help with this), and feed at least 2 meals per day. For cats, get rid of the dry food carbs, and switch to all, or mostly, canned foods. Increase activity gently and steadily. Dropping the excess weight will lift a load off of your pet, and you will have a happier more vital companion.

Neglected dental care, leading to severe dental disease is the other problem we see, especially in older pets. This often comes from a fear of having a pet undergo general anesthesia (which is rarely a problem, even for quite old pets). I am far more concerned about the infection, pain, and secondary diseases that those neglected teeth are creating. If you have ever had tooth pain, you know how much that drags you down. Pets with dental disease are usually uncomfortable. Those with advanced disease suffer, often quietly. However, when properly treated, they rebound quickly. Clients tell us that their pet is “like new” again, and that they regret having delayed the procedure. The longer you wait, the more severe the disease becomes, and the more it will cost to correct it. So take your vet’s advice when they recommend home care or a dental for your pet.

The bottom line

A slim and fit pet, with a clean smile, is a much happier pet!

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Super Heroes Among Us

A heartfelt thanks goes out to Paradocs Vet, Locust Grove Vet, Orange Vet and Tucker Vet for staying open while keeping social distancing in place by taking each animal into the clinic from their parking lots! And we welcome our two new vet clinics coming on board soon (stay tuned)! With so many people home with extra time to catch up with vetting their pets, our vets have been booked solid with their own clients. Yet they all still stretched their day to keep up with the spay/neuter surgeries and assess the sick and injured OCHS pets approved to see a vet under our Pets In Place program. These dedicated essential workers are Pet (owned and unowned) Super Heroes!

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PETS IN PLACE

This is Rocky! He was diagnosed with gallstones and qualified for our Pets in Place program. But two days prior to the scheduled surgery, Rocky crashed and had to go to ER! A very generous vet from another county volunteered her time to come in at night for life saving surgery. The Humane Society paid for the operating room, drugs and tech time! Three glass beakers of stones were removed and Rocky is up and running around with his loving guardian!
THANK YOU

Donations in Honor of...
The Senior Group from Young at Heart Club

Donations in Memory of...
Edmund “Eddie” Cat from Bonnie Cropp-Kohlligian
Daniel Sutphin from Charles E. Allen, Jr.
Jane Bixby, Copper & Frisky from Joan E. Argenzio
David Bailey from Lois Y. Bailey
Tiger from Marcus & Helga Birdsong
Robert F. Burnside from Ms. Myrle K. Burnside
Chelsea & Tasha from Rolene Chang
Many beloved pets from Amy & Barry Friedman
Percy from M.r & Mrs. Jim Gardis
Peanut from Patti Gibbs
Angie from Janie & Ron Goldberg
Renee Goldman from Donald Goldman
Mocha from Kim Harmon
Copper, Mandy & Max from Joan E. Niessing
Honey from Joe & Diane Roku
Miss Natalie Rose from Jeff & Mary Rose
Bandit from John & Marion Rourke
Walker Sanford from Douglas W. Sanford
Lacy 1 from Lacy 2 & Paula Saunders
Comet & Hapi from Fiona & Gary Teates
Trixie 2 & Tigger from Bill, Julie & Trixie Wilson

Introducing New Board Members

Betsy Ballenger
Betsy has a BA from Vassar College and has been a licensed real estate agent for over 20 years and a freelance editor for over 30 years. She began doing Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) of feral cats in NW Connecticut, as well as fostering/socializing feral kittens for adoption. A board member of the Animal Welfare Society in New Milford, Connecticut, and M.E.O.W., Inc., in Litchfield, Connecticut, she later went on to co-found Kent Kats, Inc., with another rescuer in Kent, Connecticut. In 2004, Betsy moved to California and volunteered with the SFSPCA and started a small TNR group in Pacifica called Pacifica Pier Cats. Moving to Virginia in 2012, she quickly became involved with the Feral Cat Project (later named the Community Cat Project) under the umbrella organization Voices for Animals (VFA). In January 2018, she became director of the Community Cat Project program of VFA. In August, 2018, Cat Action Team was incorporated as it became apparent that VFA would no longer support a cat program, and Betsy was the founding president, a position she continues to hold. As executive director and president of CAT, Betsy participates in determining the overall direction and strategy of the organization, leads meetings of directors and volunteers, reviews and manages the organization’s finances, liaises with community constituents (veterinarians, donors, other organization executives, volunteers, and colony caretakers), and engages in fundraising activities. She will also continue trapping and transporting feral cats, delivering food to colony caretakers, and tracking the inventory of humane feral cat traps.

Vickie Thorp
As a child, we had feral cats. As an adult, I developed cat allergies, but did well with dogs. I worked part-time at a vet clinic and learned a lot about medical care. I became involved in pup-sitting and training service dog pups to work with people with disabilities. I decided to practice my skills with my own puppy so got a golden retriever and did fairly well. Next was co-raising the service dog pup shown in the photo. Elway was a special fur child and became a mentor to young pups, an educator at events, and helped us get people ready to handle their own future service dogs. I've worked with Canine Companions for Independence, Canine Partners of the Rockies, and fostered a fair number of dogs with Retriever Rescue of the Rockies, where we adopted our current dog, Sergeant. After leaving Colorado, I began helping the Orange County Humane Society of Virginia. Our pets (and fosters) have all been members of our family, and we love helping others to care for their pets, fosters, and feral cats. They’re all special in their unique ways and with individual personalities!
Yes, I’d like to make a donation in the amount of $ ____________________________

Name: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _____________________________________________________________________________

In Memory of: _______________________________________________________________________________

In Honor of: _________________________________________________________________________________

Send Acknowledgment to: ____________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________

☐ Yes, I’d like to pay my $15 OCHS membership dues for 2021.  ☐ New  ☐ Renewal

☐ I would prefer a Lifetime Membership of $150

Please mail this coupon and a check to: Orange County Humane Society, PO Box 852, Locust Grove, VA 22508

🐾 Thank you! We are a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR DONORS

Because of you OCHS is able to continue to help sick, abandoned, injured, & homeless animals in our community. We receive no funds from any government, or any organization such as ASPCA, or the American Humane Society, or the Humane Soc. of the U.S. Please accept our apologies for any names that are misspelled or omitted. We do our best to keep accurate records.

Phillip C. Agee
Dave & Darlene Agsten
Mary & Henry Altman
Joseph & Janet Amlaner
Susan Q. Audibert
Betsy (Marie E) Ballenger
Evelyn Baldassare
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Gary D. & M.P. Weber
Donald E. Wright
AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Orange County Humane Society every time you shop, at no cost to you.

The Orange County Humane Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. Our officers and directors are Volunteers and receive no compensation. Contributions to us are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.