



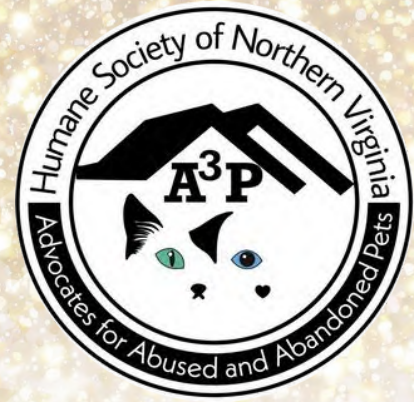
Sammy

Adopt Me!

# Humane Society of Northern Virginia

powered by

Advocates for Abused and Abandoned Pets (A3P)



NEW YEAR 2026

Happy New Year!  
2026



## President's Corner

### HSNV / A3P Steps into 2026 with Hope and Action

Welcome to 2026! Reflecting on 2025, we are struck by how quickly the year passed, filled with immense challenges and incredible triumphs. Amidst rising veterinarian costs, economic uncertainty, and over 3,600 requests for assistance with rehoming, stray, and lost pets, HSNV/A3P stood firm in our mission.

### 2025 Accomplishments: Quality Over Quantity

We maintained a strict, multi-step adoption process to ensure perfect matches, resulting in 148 cats and dogs finding their forever families. While intakes rose to just under 200 pets, our focus remained on vulnerable senior pets and those with complex medical or dental needs. Although this approach increases costs and care times, we believe every sweet soul deserves a second chance. On the feline front, we launched a proactive Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) program, sterilizing 124 cats to combat long-term homelessness. Additionally, our six low-cost clinics provided vital vaccines and services to over 230 community pets. Our "Pets 4 Life" Humane Education Summer Camp continued to inspire the next generation of animal advocates, with plans to expand in 2026.

### Looking Forward: 2026 Goals

We enter 2026 with optimism and a renewed drive to make a difference.

1. New location: We are seeking a facility to help and house more dogs and cats.
2. Transport vehicle: We are looking to secure a dedicated vehicle for rescue and medical transports.
3. Expanded TNR: We will increase spay/neuter services to reduce cat homelessness.

A huge **THANK YOU** to our amazing community! Our success is entirely due to you. To our volunteers, fosters, generous donors, and devoted followers: we love you and cannot thank you enough for your passion and support. Here's to a compassionate 2026!

Sherry Turner, Director

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A3PAdvocates



@a3petlovers

## Support us through your workplace!

If you are a federal employee (including military), federal retiree, or federal contractor, you have until January 31, 2026 to donate to your favorite charities through the [2025 Combined Federal Campaign](#) (CFC) program. The CFC is the federal government's annual workplace-giving campaign.

**Please consider supporting our work by donating to our charity through the 2025 CFC.**

For information about how to donate, visit the [CFC website](https://givecfc.org/) (<https://givecfc.org/>).

There are two ways to find our charity when you donate:

- **Our name:** Humane Society of Northern Virginia
- **Our CFC code:** 29542

thank you

In 2025, we took in 193 cats and dogs, and had 130 cat adoptions and 18 dog adoptions. We TNR'd (trap-neuter-return) 124 cats. We also helped 233 community pets through our low-cost clinics!

## Upcoming Events

(All events will take place at our rescue center unless specified.)

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**Jan 24 & Feb 1: [The Washington, DC Auto Show](#), 10am–2pm, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC.** We will have adoptable pets on site next to the Subaru cars show area during these shifts !

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**Jan 31: [Low-cost Vaccine Clinic](#), 10am–3pm.** Bring your dogs and cats to our popular vaccine clinic with Dr. Chisolm from [Heart-to-Heart Mobile Pet Care](#). We can't wait to see your fur babies!

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**Mar 14: [Pasta & Pizza 4 Paws](#), 5–8pm, Castiglia's Italian Restaurant, 10705 Courthouse Road in Fredericksburg.** Please join us at our fundraiser benefiting homeless pets and those in need of medical attention. Excellent company, food, wine tasting, silent auction, and a chance to win a one karat diamond! [Purchase tickets here](#).

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**Apr 4: [Easter Egg Hunt](#), 12–2pm.** Calling all kids to hop on down to our annual Easter egg hunt. There will be lots of games, delicious treats, and other goodies!

## Rescue Dog Spotlight: [Truffles](#)

Truffles is a sweet, gentle, 10.5-year-old Chihuahua mix. She and her "sister" (who has been adopted) were found as strays. Truffles is easygoing and enjoys relaxing outdoors and cuddling with her people. She loves food (especially chicken!), gets along with other dogs, is good with cats and kids, and is house-trained. Over the eight months Truffles has been in our care, she has been waiting patiently for someone with a big heart who will open their home to this lovable senior sweetheart.



## New Year's Resolutions That Help Homeless Animals

A new year brings the promise of fresh starts — not just for people, but for animals waiting for safety, healing, and a loving home. This year, consider including homeless pets in your New Year's resolutions. Small, intentional commitments from compassionate people like you add up to life-changing outcomes for animals in need.

### Meaningful resolutions that truly make a difference

- **Foster:** You don't have to foster all year. Even one foster stay can free up space for an animal in need, give a pet a break from stress, and help shy animals learn to trust again. Short-term, medical, and "weekend getaway" fosters save lives, too.
- **Adopt:** If you plan to adopt this year, consider adult, shy, or special needs pets. Take time to choose the right match and commit for the lifetime of the animal
- **Volunteer your time or talents:** You don't have to work directly with animals to help. Animal rescues need help with transporting pets, organizing events, creating social media content, taking photos, writing grants, and fundraising. Whatever you love to do, there is a way to turn it into rescue impact.
- **Donate:** Every dollar and bag of food matters. Ways to give include monthly donations, sponsorships for medical cases, wish list supplies, and memorial or honor gifts. Consistent support, even \$5 a month, gives rescues stability.

Together, we can make this the year of second chances. Any bit of support creates a ripple of compassion. Thank you for being part of our rescue and for making resolutions that give animals hope. Here's to a new year filled with new beginnings, wagging tails, soft purrs, and lives forever changed.



# Cold Weather Safety Tips for Your Pet\*

**Keep your pets indoors.** If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for them! If you can't keep them indoors, make sure they have dry, warm shelter that is off the ground.

**Protect your pet's paws from salt and other de-icers.** Put booties on each paw before going outside. If your pet won't wear booties, massage petroleum jelly onto their paw pads instead. Clean their feet and bellies when they come back inside. Check their skin, coat, and paws for cracks or dryness.

**Know your pet's limit for being outside.** Preexisting conditions (e.g., arthritis, diabetes), type of coat (long or short hair), body type or size, and activity level can affect their tolerance for cold weather.

**Watch for hypothermia.** If your pet is shivering, whining, weak, or not moving, take them inside immediately. Like humans, your pets are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia.

**Make sure your pet is microchipped and wearing an ID tag.** More dogs are lost during the winter than any other season!

**Keep your pet warm.** Put short-haired dogs in a sweater to protect them from the cold. Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep indoors.



Adopt Me!



**Stay off of frozen water** like lakes or ponds. If your dog breaks through the ice, it can be deadly.

**Antifreeze is deadly.** Wipe up any spills and keep it out of reach. De-icers can make your pet sick if ingested.

**Don't leave your pet alone in a cold car.** During cold weather, cars can become like a refrigerator.

**Check your car before starting it.** Warm engines are a heat source for feral cats. Before starting your car, look underneath it, bang on the hood, and honk the horn to make sure there are no cats under the hood.

**Be careful with space heaters.** They can burn your pet. Pets may also knock them over which could cause a house fire.

**Be prepared.** Put together a [pet emergency supply kit](#).

**Speak out if you see a pet left outside in the cold.** Let the owner know you're concerned. If the owner continues to neglect their pet, report it. For information about how to report neglected animals left outside in extreme temperatures, visit [Humane World for Animals](#).

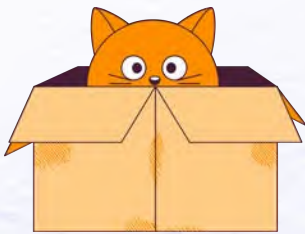
\*From the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#), [ASPCA](#), [American Red Cross](#), and the [Humane World for Animals](#).



# How to Find a Lost Pet\*

Every year, about 10 million pets go missing! There are many ways pets go missing, but some of the most common reasons include escaping through an open or unsecured door or window (of a house or a car), escaping from a yard (inadequate fencing, digging under a fence), wandering off from an unfenced yard or when walking off-leash, or slipping out of their collar while on a leash (they were startled or scared, due to a poorly fitted collar).

Many of these pets won't make it home. Doing what you can to keep your pet safe and secure will avoid the stress and heartache of them escaping. Make sure doors and windows are secure, get your dogs fitted with the right collar (Martingales are best), and microchip your pets.



## Additional tips to find a lost cat

In addition to the actions to take if you lose a pet (e.g., check animal shelters, post on social media, post flyers, ensure your pet is microchipped, etc.), there are a few additional actions to take if your cat gets out that might help them return home:

- Place your cat's litter box, cat tree, blanket, etc. outside your door in an area they can get to. Items that smell strongly of home make it easier for your cat to find its way back home.
- Place a towel or shirt that has your scent on it in a box turned on its side.
- Be sure to search for your cat in the early morning and evenings. Cats typically hide and venture out at dusk and dawn.

## What to do

**Start your search right away!** Most pets are found within the first 24 hours.

**Walk around your neighborhood or the area where your pet was lost.** Most pets are found within a mile of their home.

**Check local animal shelters** in your area, especially in the first few days. Shelters often hold stray animals for only seven days.

**Post online.** Use online tools like [PawBoost](#) and social media to spread awareness that your pet is lost. Local groups on [NextDoor](#) and Facebook can spread the word and reunite pets with families. Local Facebook groups include [Lost and Found Pets Prince William County VA](#), [Lost and Found Pets of Fairfax County VA](#), and [Lost & Found Pets of Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsy, Caroline, & KG VA](#).

**Post lost & found signs in your area.** Be sure to place a sign in YOUR yard in case someone finds your pet while you're out searching. This will alert your neighbors and anyone walking or driving past your house that your pet is missing. Include a photo of your pet and your contact information on the flyer. Check out [PawBoost](#) for tips on how to make an effective poster.

**Microchip your pet.** Microchipping your pet greatly increases the chances of finding your pet. Many adopted animals will come microchipped, so be sure to add and update your contact information upon adoption. If you find a lost pet, take them to a local shelter or vet to have them scanned for a microchip.

**Don't lose hope.** Pets are found days, weeks, months, and even years later!

\*For more information: [The Animal Foundation](#), [ASPCA](#), [Animal Humane Society](#), [AKC Reunite](#), [24Pet](#), [PetHub](#), [Granite State Dog Recovery](#)

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## Lost & Found Resources

Prince William Lost & Found: <https://www.facebook.com/LostFoundPetsPWC/>

Fredericksburg Lost & Found: <https://bit.ly/FredericksburgLostandFound>

Stafford County Lost & Found: [www.staffordcountyanimalcontrol.com/lost-and-found](http://www.staffordcountyanimalcontrol.com/lost-and-found)

Return 2 Home (R2H) Lost Pet Resources: <https://www.return2home.org/>

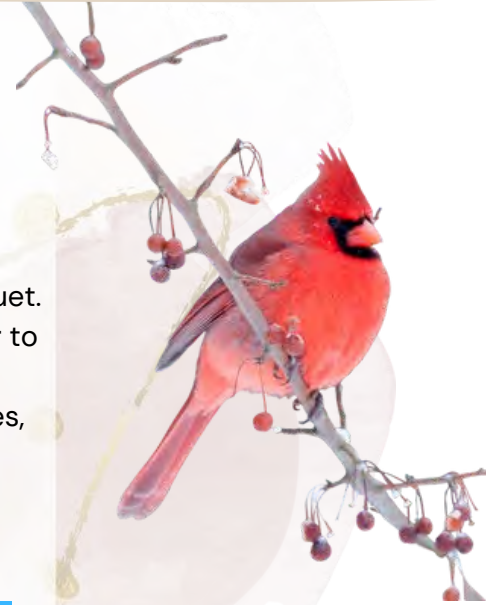
HSNV/A3P: <https://www.humanesocietynv.org/lost-and-found-pets>

## Helping Wildlife During Winter\*

In the cold months, wildlife need reliable sources of food, water, and shelter. How can you make your yard a haven for wildlife in the winter?

- Stock bird feeders with high fat foods such as black-oil sunflower seeds, unsalted and unshelled peanuts, thistle, safflower seeds, cracked corn, and suet.
- Plant trees (especially evergreens), shrubs, and bushes which provide shelter to birds and mammals.
- Leave piles of fall leaves, brush, and logs to provide habitat for insects, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals. Also, build bird houses.
- Provide a reliable source of ice-free water.

\*From [Treehugger](#) and [Wildlife Center of Virginia](#)



Help us find loving, forever homes for two of our longest residents, BC and Patrick!



During our **Low-cost Vaccine Clinic** last September and November, Dr. Chisolm and her [Heart to Heart Mobile Pet Care](#) team examined, vaccinated, and treated 76 dogs and cats. We are proud to partner with Dr. Chisolm, who is making an incredible impact in our community. Offering these great services to the community for a fraction of the cost is what affordable pet care should be!



BC

Adopt Me!



Patrick

Adopt Me!



# Preparing for Kitten Season

Every spring, animal shelters and rescues brace for the start of kitten season, the time of year when unsprayed cats have litter after litter of kittens. During this time, shelters and rescues become overwhelmed as they try to absorb the influx of mama cats and kittens despite a lack of space and resources.

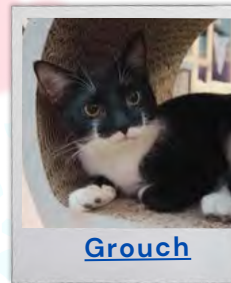
One way to meet this challenge is to begin preparing for kitten season months in advance. Spaying and neutering before breeding begins is the most effective way to reduce the number of kittens born outdoors. The harsh reality is that 75% of kittens born to feral and stray cats will die before they reach six months old. Those that survive often suffer from starvation, illness, dehydration, infections, and injuries.

Through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs, community cats are humanely altered, preventing future unwanted litters. As part of our preparations, we are in the process of ramping up our TNR efforts.

Preparing for kitten season also means building foster networks and community awareness. Nursing cats and young kittens need quiet, home-based care that most shelters simply can't provide. Lining up foster homes ensures that when kittens arrive, there's a safe place for them to go. Communities can also help by spaying and neutering their pets and learning how to help community cats.

We are committed to reducing suffering, saving lives, and ensuring more kittens grow up healthy and loved by spaying and neutering feral and stray cats through our TNR program, building a network of foster care providers for kittens, and educating the community and spreading awareness through events we organize and attend.

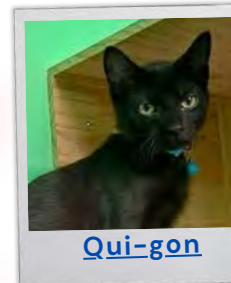
Please contact us if you are interested in fostering!



Grouch



Louie



Qui-gon

Three kittens we rescued who were born outside to feral cats.



## Car Safety for Your Pet\*

Traveling with your pet in the car, whether you're taking them with you on a road trip or to the vet, can be dangerous for both of you. **Many things could go wrong with a loose pet in the car.** They could obstruct your view of the road. If they crawl into the footwell, they could interfere with your ability to use the accelerator or brake. If you're in an accident, they could be seriously injured, crushed by a deployed airbag, or get thrown out through a window or windshield. A pet that is loose in the bed of a pickup truck could jump out or get hit by debris. And opening a car door with a loose pet inside can result in your pet bolting into traffic or running off and getting lost.

To ensure everyone's safety, follow these precautions:

- **Never leave your pet alone in the car.** Even on mild days, the temperature in your car can rise to dangerous levels, causing serious illness or death. On cold days, vulnerable pets (old, sick, young) are susceptible to cold.
- **Properly secure your pet.** Make sure dogs are secured with an appropriate safety harness. Better yet, keep your dog, cat, or other pet in a crate or pet carrier that is secured with a seat belt. Don't let your dog hang their head out of the window during a car ride. They could jump or fall out of the car or get hit by debris.
- **Leash your dog before opening the car door.** If you can't carry your dog out in their crate, be sure to leash your dog and secure the leash around your hand or wrist before you open the door. Never allow them to jump out of the car freely.

If you must take your pet with you in a car, keep them safely secured. Otherwise, they are safer left at home!

\*For more information: [American Veterinary Medical Association](#), [American Humane Society](#), [NAIDS](#)



## Rescue Cat Spotlight: Roxy

Roxy is an independent, petite beauty. She is always overlooked because it takes her a while to warm up to people. Though she will probably never be a lap kitty, Roxy is happy to lounge with you on the couch. Wand toys and laser pointers are her favorite, and she loves other cats and absolutely adores kittens! She also doesn't mind dogs (she's currently around small dogs in her foster home). Roxy will be 4-years-old in April; she has been in our care for over 1-1/2 years. Help us find her that loving, forever home she's been waiting so long for!



## How to Help Shy Cats \*

Opening your heart and home to shy, fearful, or nervous cats can be deeply rewarding, but it takes patience and understanding. Here's how to help them feel safe, gain confidence, and blossom in their new home:

### Create a Safe Space

- Confine your cat to a small, quiet room with covered hiding spots like an igloo bed, cardboard box, or cat tree. Block off inaccessible spaces (under beds, behind furniture).
- For the first three days, give your cat space to decompress—only handle litter, food, and water.

### Slowly Build Trust

- Sit quietly in the room a few times a day. Speak softly and move slowly. Avoid staring or forcing interactions.
- Use slow, exaggerated blinks to signal trust. Let your cat approach you on their own terms.
- Consider a pheromone diffuser to reduce stress.

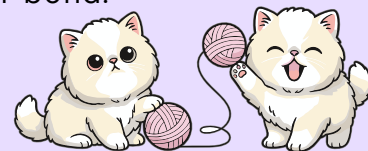
### Expand Their World Gradually

- Once your cat is comfortable eating and playing near you, allow them to explore the rest of the house. Provide additional safe hiding spots as they adjust.



### Positive Reinforcement & Enrichment

- Reward desired behaviors with treats, toys, or gentle play.
- Playtime not only provides enrichment but helps strengthen your bond.



\*For more information: [Best Friends](#), [Maddie's Fund](#), [Bark & Whiskers](#)



We were super busy last year organizing events for the community (e.g., low-cost vaccine clinics, Easter egg hunt, arts & crafts fair, summer camp for kids) and attending community events such as Paw Palooza and Barktoberfest!



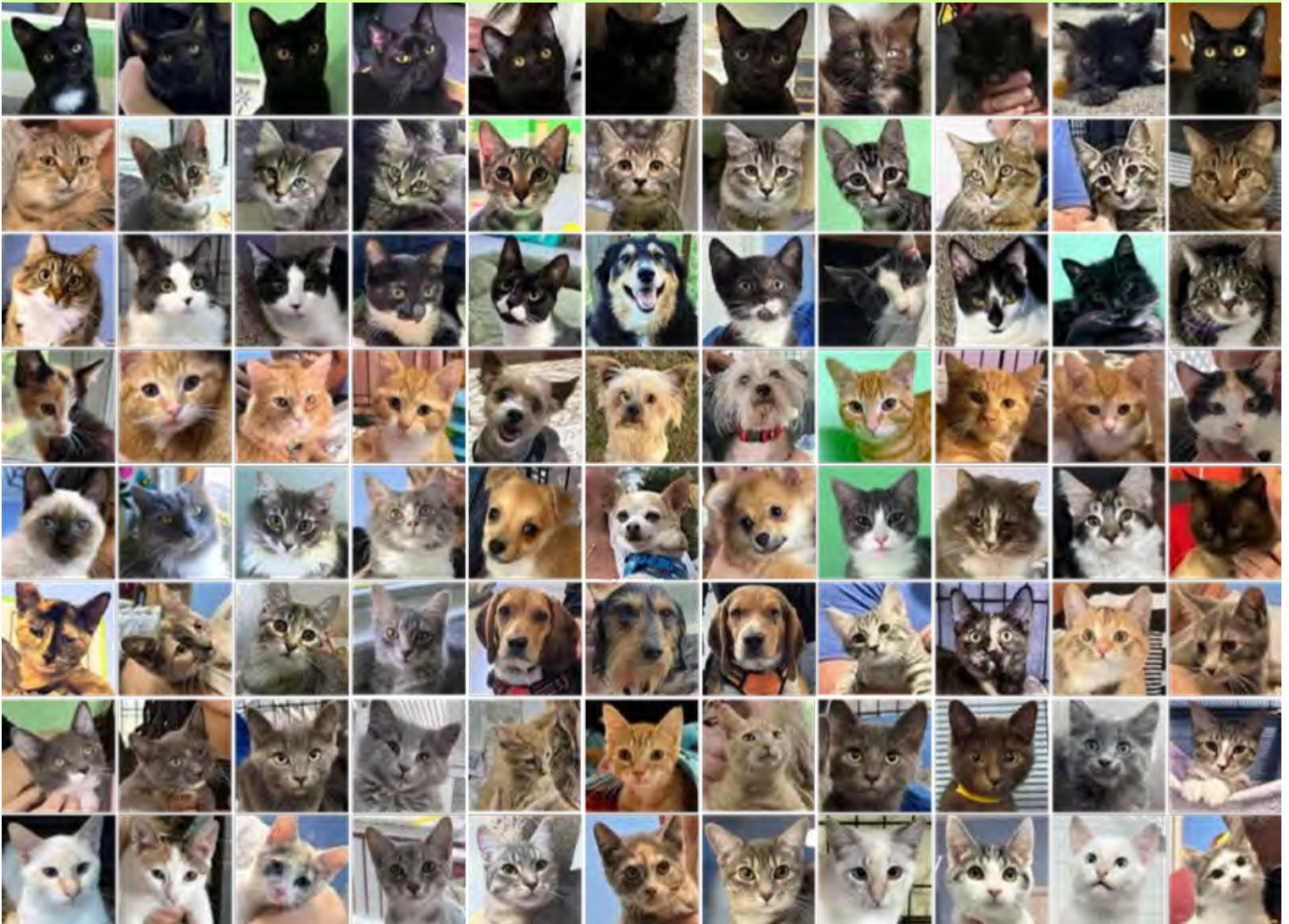
**Paw Palooza**



**Barktoberfest**



Our adoptions the last half of 2025. We wish you happiness in your forever homes!



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A3PAdvocates



@a3petlovers



Baxter

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# Thank you

## to our Sponsors, Partners, and Volunteers!!



Benito

Adopt Me!

As a volunteer-run charity, our success depends on the dedication and support of our volunteers, foster care providers, sponsors, partners, adopters of our rescues, and those who donate and provide services. **We are grateful to everyone who supports and believes in the work we do!** *We can't do it without you.* The more help we get, the more pets we can save!



We are humbled and excited to again be named one of [Northern Virginia Magazine's Best Pet Care](#) winners! Thank you for supporting our efforts to save lives!!

A huge THANK YOU to **Stohlman Subaru of Tysons** for our continued partnership and to the [Subaru Loves Pets](#) campaign, which donated \$100 for each pet adopted during the month of October!



### Ursula Landsrath Animal Rescue Fund

We are excited to share the news that we received a grant from the [Ursula Landsrath Animal Rescue Fund](#) to support our TNR (trap-neuter-return) efforts! We started our TNR program in January 2025 as another way to support homeless cats. This grant will allow us to help so many cats live a better life. Thank you, ULARF!

### Subaru Loves Pets Campaign adoption events in 2025



Stohlman Subaru of Tysons



Subaru of Sterling

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# Please support our work!



Shop our Chewy Wish List  
[https://www.chewy.com/g/advocates-for-abused-and-abandoned-pets\\_b73309598](https://www.chewy.com/g/advocates-for-abused-and-abandoned-pets_b73309598)



Shop our amazon Wish Lists.  
<https://bit.ly/donate2HSNV>



When you purchase a new subscription, Bark Box will donate to us! Go to:  
<https://www.barkbox.com/>

Use Code **A3P** when you check out.



Shop our CUDDLY Wish List  
<https://cuddly.com/pantry/4912858/humane-society-of-northern-virginia>



## Honor Those You Love



Losing a beloved family member, friend, or pet is unbearable. Only those of us who have endured such loss truly understand the pain. Paying tribute is one way to honor our loved ones, and adopting a homeless pet is one way to help heal the wounds of losing a four-legged best friend. Donating in your pet's name is another way to help a deserving pet.

If you would like to make a donation in your pet's name, please fill out and email this [Tribute Form](#) to [a3padvocates@gmail.com](mailto:a3padvocates@gmail.com), and make a donation through our website (click the yellow "Donate" button).

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Please consider becoming a sponsor. We do not receive government funding or support from the Humane World for Animals (formerly Humane Society of the United States) or other humane society. Your generosity ensures the health and welfare of homeless pets and funds education programs that teach the value of pets and responsible pet ownership.



### Tail Wagger

- Recognized on social media

\$250



### Companion

- Recognized on social media
- Engraved name plate on cage/condo

\$500



### Best Friend

- Recognized on social media; company logo on website partnership page
- Engraved name plate on cage/condo

\$750



### Pack Leader

- Recognized on social media; company logo on website partnership page
- Engraved name plate on cage/condo
- Featured "Pet of the Month Sponsored by \_\_\_\_" on website homepage for 3 months

\$1000



### Top Dog

- Recognized on social media; company logo on website partnership page
- Engraved name plate on cage/condo
- Featured "Pet of the Month Sponsored by \_\_\_\_" on website homepage for 6 months
- Vendor table at one HSNV/A3P hosted event

\$1500

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## Pet Pantry\*

### Donate

Please call us at **571-931-0796** to discuss partnerships and/or donation drop offs. We always need Fancy Feast wet kitten food, IAMS kitten or adult dry food, fleece or baby blankets, Frontline or Advantix flea treatment for dogs and cats, puppy pads, and gift cards to PetSmart, Petco, and Tractor Supply.

If you, or someone you know, needs help with dog food, please reach out. This is part of our commitment to help keep pets with their owners. We always need donations to keep the pantry stocked so if you can help, please select pet food items from our [Amazon](#), [Chewy](#), and [Cuddly](#) Wish Lists.

\*We are unable to help with cat food due to the number of cats we are caring for.


**ADOPT**  
IF YOU CAN'T ADOPT  
**FOSTER**  
IF YOU CAN'T FOSTER  
**SPONSOR**  
IF YOU CAN'T SPONSOR  
**VOLUNTEER**  
IF YOU CAN'T VOLUNTEER  
**DONATE**  
IF YOU CAN'T DONATE  
**EDUCATE**





## Leave us a review!


Help others find us!

Leaving a review telling us how we're doing is one of the most powerful ways you can support us. Reviews build trust, increase our visibility, attract adopters and volunteers, and open doors to grants and partnerships. A few kind words from you can make a lasting impact! Here's how to find us:

 Google: Humane Society of Northern Virginia

 [Facebook](#): a3padvocates 

 [Yelp](#): Humane Society of Northern Virginia

 [Great Nonprofits](#): Advocates for Abused and Abandoned Pets



Luna

Adopt Me!



# Donations are Appreciated!!

Please go to our website to donate now!

**Donate**

OR mail in this donation form:

Please print out and fill in this form and mail it with your donation to:

A3P  
P.O. Box 36  
Thornburg, VA 22565

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Name:                    |
| Address:                 |
| City / State / Zip Code: |
| Phone:                   |
| Email address:           |

Yes! I would like to help A3P continue to rescue homeless animals with my donation of (please check box):

\$1,000       \$500       \$125       \$50       Other

I am interested in volunteer opportunities with A3P.

Call us at (571) 931-0796

Visit us online at  
[www.humanesocietynv.org](http://www.humanesocietynv.org) or  
[www.facebook.com/A3PAdvocates](http://www.facebook.com/A3PAdvocates)



Drop by and visit our rescues!

We're located at:  
17983 Dumfries Shopping Plaza  
Dumfries, VA

**The rescue animals thank you!**

A3P is a non-profit organization exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; charitable contributions are tax deductible.

EIN:82-2554833

CFC #: 29542

ADVOCATE

EDUCATE

RESCUE