

# PENINSULA SPCA news

Fall 2014

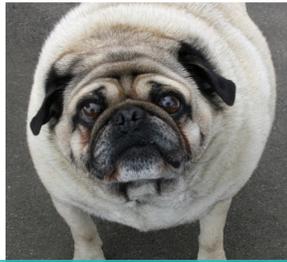
Pets. Change. People.



BRANDO adopted June 2014



BALOO adopted April 2014



PUGSLEY adopted March 2014



HEIDI adopted June 2014



BISCUIT adopted July 2014

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PENINSULA SPCA

## THE New PENINSULA SPCA SHELTER AND EDUCATION CENTER

**Intake of Animals:** The new Peninsula SPCA no longer houses stray animals picked up by Animal Control officers or citizens. Stray animals will be held at the new Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter at 5843 Jefferson Avenue in Newport News.

The Peninsula SPCA is now an "adoption guarantee" or no-kill shelter, meaning we pledge to find homes for a minimum of 90% of the animals in our care. We take in owner-surrendered animals by appointment to ensure we have adequate housing for all of our sheltered pets. Please see our website at [www.PeninsulaSPCA.org](http://www.PeninsulaSPCA.org) or call our office at (757) 595-1399 for more information on animal intake and appointments.

The Peninsula SPCA cannot accept animals for shelter that are unsafe for adoption to the public.

**Adoption of Animals:** Your new best friend is still waiting for you at the Peninsula SPCA! We will continue to have wonderful dogs, cats and small animals in need of their "forever" homes, and we want you to come meet them. The shelter remains open for adoptions Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

**Petting Zoo:** Our Petting Zoo is open Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Come meet our new miniature donkeys and alpacas, and learn "up close" about these and other fascinating animals! Our Petting Zoo makes a perfect venue for birthday parties. Visit [www.PeninsulaSPCA.org](http://www.PeninsulaSPCA.org) for more info.

**Learning Opportunities:** The Peninsula SPCA Shelter and Education Center will soon be offering a variety of ways for kids and adults to learn more about animal care, including "My New Pet" classes for young first-time owners, "Know Your Bully" classes for bully-breed dog adopters, and classes to teach ways to properly manage a feral cat colony. Check out our website for more information on our new humane education programs.

**A Community Resource:** The new Peninsula SPCA Shelter and Education Center is more than a safe haven for homeless pets; it is a place where our citizens can come to ask questions, get help with pet behavior problems, and learn about recommended vaccinations and medical treatments for their pets. In addition, citizens can enjoy a summer "animal camp" session at our shelter and Petting Zoo, learn about breed rescue groups, participate in volunteer activities, and much more!

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELLEN THACKER

Give any of us here at the new Peninsula SPCA Shelter and Education Center an opportunity to tell you what's new at our place these days, and you may be in for a long conversation – and longer still if you ask us what's in store in the year to come!

Our long-awaited conversion to being an Adoption Guarantee Shelter is finally complete, and that means lots of changes – in our animal housing and enrichment areas, our Petting Zoo, our lobby and our grounds. It's an exciting time, and the changes we have in store will make our shelter a wonderful place to find a new pet, meet a baby alpaca, or just spend some time throwing a ball with a frisky pup or grooming a cat in need to some love.

The new Peninsula SPCA Shelter and Education Center is your shelter and we want you here with us, interacting with the staff, the volunteers, and of course, the animals. The best way to learn more about the Peninsula's new Adoption Guarantee Shelter?

Come and see!

Ellen Thacker, Executive Director



WHISKEY adopted February 2014



# LITTLE BEAR, BIG HEART



It has been seven years since the tragic death of Little Bear Morris, a beloved canine family member of Peninsula SPCA supporters Henry and Judy Morris. Little bear was diagnosed with cancer of the spleen only one week before it took his precious life.



In 2008, the grieving Morris family knew they wanted to create a memorial for Little Bear that would both honor his life, and also benefit the lives of countless homeless pets in crisis in future years. The Morris family then established The Little Bear Fund of the Peninsula SPCA, to provide the resources needed to help orphaned animals with critical health problems requiring medical attention. Their goal was, and still is, to help these deserving animals get the veterinary care they need in order to heal and be adopted into safe, loving homes.



Today, The Little Bear Fund is still a special resource to the shelter, enabling us to provide often costly medical procedures to needy pets wanting nothing more than to be able to continue to love and enjoy life with a human companion.

Case in point: meet Baxter (pictured left). Baxter was a stray brought into the Peninsula SPCA shelter in 2008. When he came to us, Baxter's physical condition was deplorable; he had been abandoned and without care for quite some time. His eyes had become so infected and damaged that they were beyond repair, and Baxter could have been humanely euthanized due to the severe nature of his illness/injury and the money it would take to treat him (far beyond the means of most non-profit animal shelters.)

Fortunately, the Peninsula SPCA now had The Little Bear Fund, and because of this resource, we were able to provide Baxter with the life-saving surgery that sadly left him completely blind, but otherwise healthy and ready for adoption. Baxter is now happily living in his forever home with his "mom" Diana Morris, and was the constant companion to his "dad" Wayne Morris until his death from Alzheimer's disease in October of 2011.

So often, saving a precious animal life and enhancing a human one just takes a little extra effort – and it is always so worth it. **Please consider supporting The Little Bear Fund of the Peninsula SPCA and help us continue to help make miracles possible for the homeless pets of the Peninsula.**

## A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

In November of 2013, the Peninsula lost one of its long-time animal welfare advocates and the first executive director of the Peninsula SPCA, Mrs. Florence Mailander.

Mrs. Mailander, who was born in Portsmouth, served as vice president and executive director for the PSPCA for 14 years in the 1960's and early 1970's. She was instrumental in the construction of the first shelter building on Salters Creek Road in Hampton. Although not many may remember her early and extensive contributions to the shelter, Times-Herald newspaper featured a story on Mrs. Mailander in September of 1967. The article detailed how she took calls to help stray and abandoned animals all day at work, as well as at home when the shelter was closed, and often went to pick up animals in need herself. The article also provided insight into how volunteers and staff members often had to contribute their own money to keep the shelter operating and the animals fed.

Even at the passing age of 94, Mrs. Mailander remembered the homeless pets of the Peninsula SPCA with a kind gift in her will to help save even more precious lives.

The Peninsula SPCA will honor Mrs. Mailander's memory and contributions to our shelter's early efforts by hanging her portrait in the lobby of our transformed Adoption Guarantee Shelter.



DRIZZLY adopted June 2014



BINZY adopted March 2014



DIESEL adopted July 2014



# HUMANE EDUCATION

# CONTACT US

In our journey of transitioning into an Adoption Guarantee shelter, it became clear that we needed to chart a new course on our community relations agenda. Humane education is vital to our mission of strengthening the human/animal bond and becoming an essential resource within our cities and surrounding areas. It was only due to the generosity of Ferguson Enterprises that we were able to develop a Humane Education and Outreach Department to create and lead educational programs for members of all ages in our community.

Katrina Mills, our Humane Education and Outreach Coordinator, is utilizing her experience as an elementary and middle school teacher to make our presence in the community deeper and more meaningful than we have been able to do previously. With the realization that animal welfare education needs to occur early on in a child's life to create a compassionate population whose empathy will last into adulthood, the school-age population became the first area of focus. Therefore, we are developing programs that will teach children to respect and value animal welfare while addressing the United States Department of Education STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Initiative.



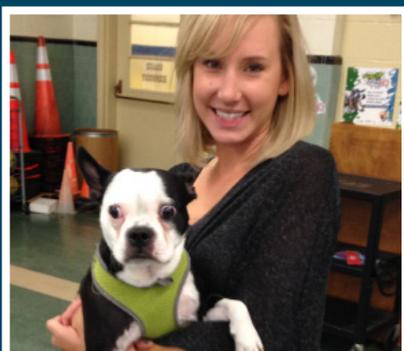
*Our Humane Educator, Katrina Mills, teaching students about animal safety during Dog Bite Prevention Week.*

As a pioneer in this approach to humane education, we have been fortunate enough to work closely with Newport News Public-Schools as an outreach program for their STEM Summer Learning Lab at the Sedgefield Elementary location. Children from kindergarten up to fourth grade worked to design and build such things as fetching machines to increase pet/owner interaction, water filtration systems to provide animals with clean drinking water, and recycled cat tower prototypes for our future cat socialization rooms. In addition, all participants interacted with adoptable dogs— learning how to properly and safely introduce themselves to a leashed pet and how to avoid potential dog bite situations.

## VOLUNTEER

Next Volunteer Orientation:  
Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.  
Peninsula SPCA, Lily's Den Picnic Area

For more information, visit  
[www.PeninsulaSPCA.org](http://www.PeninsulaSPCA.org)



**ASHLEY WINCH**  
Volunteer Coordinator

## SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS

### WHAT'S DONE

- Shelter HVAC system renovated
- Privacy wall in dog kennel room
- Enrichment play yard for dogs
- Removal of feral cat trailer
- New mobile Humane Ed. classroom

### WHAT'S TO COME

- Removal of wall cages for dogs
- Installation of windows in cat room
- Expansion of cat cages
- Renovation of vet clinic
- Renovation of lobby area

**PENINSULA SPCA**  
523 J. CLYDE MORRIS BLVD.  
NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23601

**MAIN 757.595.1399**  
**FAX 757.595.9945**

[WWW.PENINSULASPCA.ORG](http://WWW.PENINSULASPCA.ORG)

**SPCA BUSINESS HOURS:**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY 11 A.M. – 6 P.M.**  
**SATURDAY 10 A.M. – 5 P.M.**  
**SUNDAY CLOSED**

### STAFF

- Ellen Thacker**—Executive Director
- Don Branch**—Assistant Director
- Billy Houpt**—Operations and Petting Zoo Manager
- Yvonne Dolan, DVM**—VIC
- Fran Hight**—Business Manager
- Lou Siaoosi**—Clinic Technician and Foster Care
- Bree Harris**—Marketing and Special Events Manager
- Katrina Mills**—Humane Educator/ Outreach Coordinator
- Ashley Winch**—Volunteer Coordinator
- Patrice Carter**—Assistant Kennel Manager
- Alyson Heath**—Assistant Kennel Manager
- Kaitlyn Nickell**—Medical Care Coordinator

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James Thornton**—Chair
- Henry Morris**—1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair
- Denise Vaughn**—2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair
- Bill Hart**—Treasurer
- Lorraine Hall**—Secretary
- Dru Branche**
- Laura Brown**
- James A. Gray**
- Page Hayhurst**
- Sarah Messersmith**
- Kelly Peck**
- Frank Roach**
- Cynthia Rohlf**
- Candy Snyder**
- Scott Stollendorf**
- Allen Tanner**
- David Brinker, DVM**—Emeritus
- Karen DeAngelis, DVM**—Emeritus

**P**AWSDOG WALK  
FOR A CAUSE  
**& FESTIVAL**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014  
MARINERS' MUSEUM PARK**



**REGISTER ONLINE**  
**www.PeninsulaSPCA.org**

*Lil*  
2014 SPOKES PET



EVENT PRESENTED BY  
**FERGUSON**  
cares

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FUR BALL 2015**  
WELCOME ABOARD.

**FEBRUARY 21, 2015**  
HAMPTON ROADS CONVENTION CENTER



*Sammy*  
2015 SPOKES PET



PHOTO CREDIT: SIGMON TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO FUR BALL 2014 SPONSORS**

- FERGUSON
- SMITHFIELD FOODS
- JUDY AND HENRY MORRIS
- DONNA AND JAMES THORNTON
- YORK RIVER ELECTRIC, INC.
- LAURA Y. BROWN AND EDWARD FISCELLA

*Open to find out more!*

**WE'RE MAKING PAWS-ITIVE CHANGES.**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
POSTAGE & FEES  
PAID  
PENINSULA SPCA  
PERMIT NO. 217

**The Peninsula SPCA**  
523 J. Clyde Morris Blvd.  
Newport News, VA 23601

