

After a collapsed lung, cat breathes a sigh of relief

Mr. Burns is a confident 4-year-old cat who was found as a friendly stray by our friends at Petersburg Animal Control before we transferred him into our care.

While Mr. Burns was affectionate with our staff, it was obvious he did not feel well when he first arrived at our center. During Mr. Burns' intake exam, Associate Veterinarian Dr. David Molinas noticed Mr. Burns was struggling to breathe. Our shelter veterinary team performed radiographs to see what was wrong.

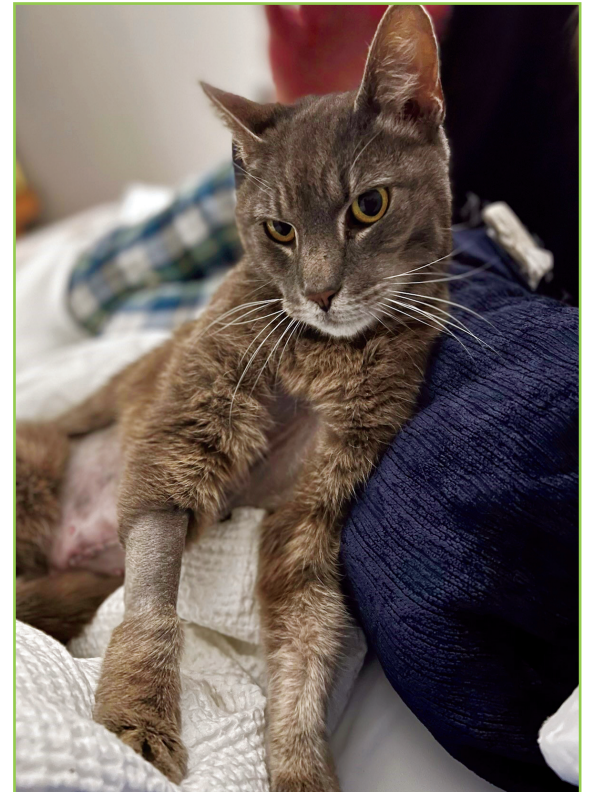
Our team diagnosed Mr. Burns with a diaphragmatic hernia, a condition where the diaphragm tears, allowing the abdominal organs (stomach, small intestine and spleen) to pass into the chest cavity. **Hernias like this one are typically the result of significant trauma, such as a car collision, and are often fatal in the absence of quick surgical intervention.** Though Mr. Burns is a hearty cat, he needed help — fast.

We called our friend Dr. Septima Aktay, at Virginia Veterinary Centers (VVC) for help. During surgery, Dr. Aktay observed that one of Mr. Burns' lungs was severely collapsed under the weight of his abdominal organs. However, it would take more than a collapsed lung to keep this kitty down! Dr. Aktay returned Mr. Burns' organs to their correct locations, and VVC staff monitored him overnight while his lung reinflated. Thankfully, after several more days of observation at our humane center, Mr. Burns was released into the home of an experienced foster care provider.

The following two weeks were just long enough for Mr. Burns to make a miraculous, full recovery, but not short enough for his foster family to avoid falling in love with him. When he was cleared for adoption, Mr. Burns' foster care provider, Susan Sisk, just couldn't part ways with this resilient cat, so she made him an official part of the family.

Susan says Mr. Burns is a perfect companion. "He's a 'leaner' and really likes to be close to his humans."

VVC has generously provided the Richmond SPCA with a \$10,000 grant to be used for covering the cost of emergency services provided to pets while they are in foster care. Thanks to VVC, Mr. Burns survived a rough patch and is now living comfortably with his loving family.



Kept comfortable by his foster family after surgery, Mr. Burns made a full recovery.



Mr. Burns before surgery — multiple abdominal organs have herniated into his chest cavity through a tear in his diaphragm.

Did you notice our "retro vibe"? This year, we are celebrating our 20th anniversary as a no-kill shelter with a throwback theme that includes our logo, nostalgic merch and communications throughout the year.

MATCH ALERT:
Your donation can be
doubled this month

Boba and Tea, adopted
this year



For the sixth year in a row, friends to animals Dave and Christy Cottrell are helping your generosity go twice as far to help our pets!

Dave and Christy are matching each gift of \$50 or more that is made by September 30, 2022 — up to \$10,000!

That means ...

- \$50** becomes **\$100**
- \$125** becomes **\$250**
- \$500** becomes **\$1,000**
- \$1,000** becomes **\$2,000**

Peter Griffin: From freewheelin' to homebody

Peter Griffin & Co. is the nickname given by our staff to a group of 16 cats who arrived at our humane center in late April. The combined kitties included one adult male (Peter Griffin), three nursing mothers and a dozen kittens.

During the cats' intake exams, our medical team noticed that many kittens looked remarkably like Peter Griffin. **In fact, he is the father of all 12!** We delivered vaccinations and essential veterinary care to the whole crew. And, very importantly, we spayed and neutered everyone — ensuring Peter Griffin could kiss his tomcat days goodbye.

We are glad to report the entire feline family has found new homes with adopters. Peter's new guardian tells us he's learning to wear a harness for some safe outdoor play time. You could say he's a real family guy!



Peter Griffin, now called Ginji, couldn't be happier in his new home.



Aether and three kittens — Buttons, Carrot (sleeping) and Berlin. Buttons and Carrot really take after their dad.

The Richmond SPCA sterilizes all of our pets prior to adoption, and in our satellite Smoky's Spay & Neuter Clinic, we help assure dogs and cats in the care of local government shelters and private rescue groups are pre-altered too. **This is important work that prevents future pet homelessness, and we thank you for making it possible for the animals of our community.**

Freedom for 4,000 beagles - nope, that's not a typo!

Last issue, we shared with you the Richmond SPCA's participation in a statewide coalition of animal welfare organizations called the **Virginia Coalition for Beagle Protection**. This group formed in response to well-documented, deplorable conditions at Envigo, a Cumberland County facility housing thousands of innocent beagles bred for laboratory testing. The story evolved rapidly this summer, gaining national attention amidst legal battles between the federal government and Envigo. **We are pleased to share that the final outcome will be freedom for 4,000 innocent dogs!** We are proud to partner with the HSUS and other coordinating transfer agencies such as our friends Homeward Trails in Northern Virginia to bring some of the beagles into our loving care. Read more at richmondspca.org/blog for an update and to continue the journey with these sweet dogs.



Fundraising Events Specialist Janae Jones greets a rescued beagle.

Helping Azalea bloom



Richmond SPCA coordinator of transfers, Nicole Harrig, receives Azalea from our partners at Louisa County Animal Shelter.



Recovering from a serious injury couldn't keep Azalea from expressing her curious and excitable personality.



Now fully recovered, Azalea enjoys sunny naps and bouts of zoomies with her new family.

Azalea, a friendly and affectionate 1-year-old dog, was found in pretty rough shape by our friends at Louisa County Animal Shelter in late April.

In addition to having multiple tick-borne infections, Azalea had a collar severely embedded in her neck that required immediate attention and surgery. Chances are Azalea had become separated from her family months earlier, and as she grew, her collar size was never adjusted. The result was a collar that had grown 2.5 inches deep into her tissue.

The staff at Louisa County Animal Shelter took Azalea to a local veterinarian who removed the embedded collar and treated her infections. A second surgery was still needed to close the large area where the collar was once embedded, so Louisa County Animal Shelter asked if the Richmond SPCA could help. We jumped at the opportunity.

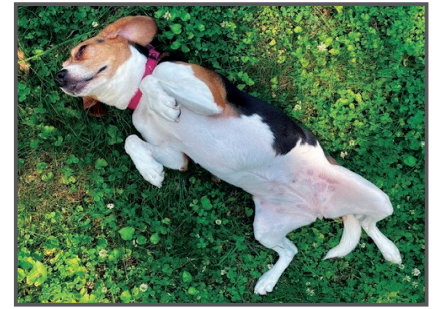
Shortly after we brought Azalea into our care in early May, Dr. David Molinas closed the deep opening in her neck and also spayed her. With the help of antibiotics and water therapy, our shelter veterinary team supported Azalea throughout her recovery.

Staff at our humane center quickly fell in love with Azalea's playful personality. So, too, did her adopter who took Azalea home on June 2 and describes her as "very social and very wiggly."

The Richmond SPCA partners with government as well as private shelters throughout Virginia to help save the lives of animals, particularly those in need of serious medical intervention. Delivering care to sick and injured homeless pets before preparing them for adoption to lasting homes is core to our mission, and we couldn't do it without you.

Your compassion and gifts of love make it possible for us to rescue pets like Azalea and return them to health before matching them with wonderful new families. Thank you.

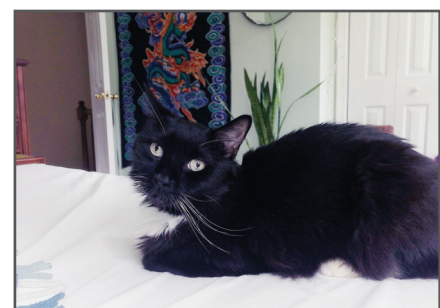
Alumni Updates



Carol Burnett, adopted in October 2020, is the cool dog on the block. According to her adopter, she has quite a fur following in the neighborhood!



Elio and Oliver are a bonded pair of FeLV+ cats adopted in February 2019. They are best friends fur-ever.



Eric feels right at home with his new family and he loves to let them know by sleeping on their heads!



Please tag us in your Richmond SPCA alumni pet photos with [@richmondspca](https://www.instagram.com/richmondspca) or email us updates about your adopted pets at info@richmondspca.org.

Follow the Richmond SPCA to stay up to date on our events, activities, and pets who are available for adoption!

THE PET POST

Win big and save pets in need with Fur Ball Raffle tickets

Support our lifesaving work by purchasing tickets in our Fur Ball Raffle presented by **Irongate Capital Advisors**. Each ticket purchase delivers hope to homeless animals — and gives you a chance to win one of our awesome prizes!



Marriott Virginia Beach getaway



Electric bike from Heather and Ryder Mull, Commercial Realtors with SRMFRE



Bimonthly care packages from Sydney Hale Co.



Schwarzschild
Jewelers

Jewelry from Schwarzschild Jewelers



Pizza for a year from River City Wood Fire

Fur Ball Raffle tickets are \$5 each, five for \$20, 10 for \$40 or 25 for \$100. Purchase your raffle tickets online at richmondspca.org/raffle or by check — please write “Fur Ball Raffle tickets” in the memo line.

Purchasers must be at least 18 years old and residents of Virginia. Raffle prize winners will be contacted after a random drawing on Monday, November 7, 2022.

We Were Adopted



Pumbaa



Gale Weathers



Last chance to go Over The Edge

September 24 we will bring back Over The Edge for the Richmond SPCA for a second and final opportunity to rappel down the Thomas F. Farrell II Dominion Energy building on Canal Street. You will have the adventure of a lifetime, get an amazing photo with the best view of RVA and help the homeless pets in our care. With just over 40 spots left, register today to create your fundraising page to raise \$1,000 and reap your reward of a 20-story urban rappelling adventure! You can also participate by supporting other rappellers or coordinating an office-wide campaign for the “Toss your Boss” rappel. So many options!



The Richmond SPCA, founded in 1891, is a no-kill humane society dedicated to the principle that every life is precious. We provide essential care to about 4,000 homeless animals each year, caring for approximately 300 cats and dogs every day. We deliver affordable veterinary care through our Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital to about 10,000 pet patients each year. The Richmond SPCA is an independent nonprofit, which is not a chapter or affiliate of any other organization with Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in its name, including but not limited to the ASPCA.

As a national leader in humane care and education, the Richmond SPCA is building a more compassionate community through education, adoption, low-cost, high-quality veterinary care, rehabilitation and more. For more information on our programs and services, please call 804-521-1300 or visit richmondspca.org.

THE PET POST is published for friends of the Richmond SPCA.

A copy of our most recently-audited financial statements is on file with the Virginia Division of Consumer Affairs.

Since we became no-kill in 2002, you've helped us adopt 65,447 pets to loving homes!