Ulsan's second happily ever after

You don't see many dogs who look like **Ulsan** in Richmond, Virginia. That's because the Jindo mix, as well as 13 other dogs, traveled to Richmond from **South Korea**, where they were **rescued from a dog meat farm** by Humane Society International in 2016. Thanks to HSI's efforts, Ulsan and many other dogs were saved from slaughter and delivered to the safety of humane organizations like ours.

Once in the care of the Richmond SPCA, these dogs faced unique challenges as they had formerly only experienced life as livestock, not pets. **Jackie Laubacher, manager of behavior and training**, led a specialized team of volunteers to socialize the dogs and prepare them for loving homes.

Jackie noticed Ulsan, one in a litter of puppies, was easily scared by large trucks, loud noises and unexpected sensations like a leash getting caught under his leg. Ulsan was wary of people he didn't know, especially men.

Jackie decided a cautious, hands-off approach would work best for Ulsan, so the two spent many hours together in the same space, where Jackie was careful not to touch or startle the apprehensive dog. Thanks to this slow and steady strategy, Ulsan was able to **gradually relax** when he was with Jackie, and the two formed a strong bond.

In July 2017, the young dog went home with an adopter who understood Ulsan's cautious personality and cared for him with the love and respect that Ulsan needed. After four happy years together, Ulsan's guardian received military orders for overseas deployment and returned him to our care. While Ulsan's return wasn't ideal, Jackie got back to work on guiding him to his next home.

Jackie gradually introduced Ulsan to new Richmond SPCA caretakers, including **Lead Behavior and Training Associate Brandon Hepler**, who became another of Ulsan's close confidants. "We allowed Ulsan to choose who he wanted to be his friends," Jackie said. "It was important for him to feel **safe with people** and to know that they would be there for him if he was startled by something in the environment."

Over the next year and a half, Jackie and Brandon continued to train Ulsan on overcoming his fear of strangers. While they made progress, Ulsan remained comfortable only with people whom he knew and liked, which created barriers for his adoption.

Our staff knew Ulsan needed a **special person** who could dedicate the time to get to know him in our humane center before he could go home.

Ulsan with his friends Brandon and Jackie
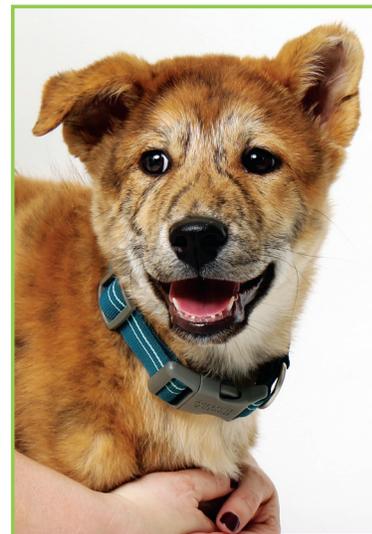
Ulsan was 4 months old when we first met him in 2016.

Dogs like Ulsan benefit from "field trips" – short daytrips outside of the shelter with our staff members and experienced volunteers.

Ulsan's story continues on the following page.

Ulsan's story continues from the first page.

Finally, in winter 2022, that special person came along.

After seeing a photo of Ulsan on our website, Ulsan's new adopter visited our humane center for a meet and greet, and there was instant chemistry. Over the course of six weeks, Ulsan's adopter spent hours with our Behavior and Training team, learning about dog communication, taking short field trips and getting to know Ulsan. Jackie and Brandon said a tearful goodbye as Ulsan left the Richmond SPCA for the second time.

Thanks to donors like you, pets who come to the Richmond SPCA have our Behavior and Training team to rely on for a lifetime of support as they develop into happy, confident pets. While the ultimate goal for each of the pets in our humane center is adoption, it can be bittersweet to see long-term residents exit our doors.

"It's heartbreaking to see them go, but it's what we do," Jackie said. "If we didn't do it well, then these dogs wouldn't find homes." **Your support ensures dogs like Ulsan have every opportunity to experience a happily ever after (or two).**

Back in a loving home with his new adopter, Ulsan is ready to enjoy a beautiful summer in the River City.

Tenacious Tripp becomes a tiny tripod
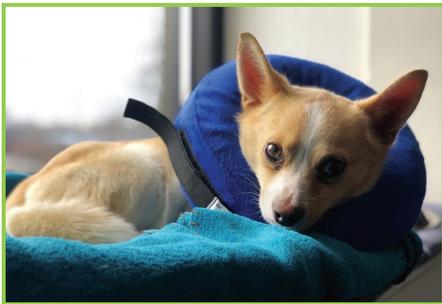
Tripp recovers in an administrative office a few days after his surgery.

We are grateful to our supporters who joined us last year in celebrating our 20th anniversary as a no-kill shelter. We guarantee the safety and adoption of every healthy or treatable homeless animal who enters our care, and our commitment to no-kill includes serving as a support system for our partner shelters across Virginia. **Last year, around 60% of the pets in our care came from shelters who lacked the space, staff or other resources to give these pets a second chance.**

In mid-February, our friends at Prince George County Animal Services partnered with us to save the life of a dog in their care. Prince George did not have the funding to provide necessary veterinary treatment to Tripp, an 8.5-pound Chihuahua mix who needed an amputation, so they asked for our help.

Shortly after Tripp's transfer to our humane center, our Veterinary Services team found multiple wounds around Tripp's neck and legs in addition to a compound fracture in his right front leg that caused a severe infection. The day after Tripp's arrival, Associate Veterinarian Dr. David Molinas treated Tripp's wounds and successfully amputated his injured leg.

Tripp's soulful eyes and timid nature captured the hearts of his caretakers. After he was reassessed and his amputation site was healing well, Tripp was adopted into a loving home by our Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital Manager of Patient Services Gabriella Teamkin.

The Richmond SPCA delivers our no-kill vision and takes on the care of pets whose lives would otherwise be at risk thanks to the outstanding support you provide us. **Your contributions to the Richmond SPCA are what allow us to say "yes" to the vulnerable pets who need our help.**

Gabriella and Tripp celebrating the beginning of life together on Tripp's "Gotcha Day"

It takes a village to care for community cats

Dr. Jasmine Jones, chief of staff at Banfield Pet Hospitals in Massoponax and Fredericksburg, volunteered alongside six of her colleagues.

On March 20, the combined efforts of many compassionate people in our **Smoky's Spay & Neuter Clinic** changed 41 cats' lives for the better.

A volunteer surgical team made up of veterinarians and practice managers from several Banfield Pet Hospital locations joined forces with our professional veterinary staff at Smoky's Spay & Neuter Clinic to provide free sterilizations, rabies vaccinations, pain injections, dewormer and examinations to free-roaming, unowned community cats brought to our clinic by 10 dedicated **Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return** volunteers.

While these cats didn't have owners, they had the compassionate people of **RVA Community Cats** looking out for them and ensuring there are no more kittens in their futures. We are so grateful to our friends at Banfield Pet Hospital and to Richmond-area community cat caregivers for the immense kindness they show these innocent animals.

If you'd like to be part of making this kind of lasting impact on the community, you could become a member of our team. We have openings for licensed veterinary technicians and surgical assistants in our Smoky's Spay & Neuter Clinic and Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital. Learn more about joining our team and apply online by scanning the QR code at right.

SCAN ME

Kitten season has sprung

Infant bottle-baby kittens are making their way to our humane center, and we will need dozens of foster providers to deliver them around-the-clock care in the weeks ahead.

SCAN ME

You can join this amazing lifesaving team in coming to the rescue of the tiniest of companions. Register and complete our online foster care training by scanning the QR code at left.

Unable to foster, but still want to help? You can stock our orphaned kitten supplies by shopping our **Amazon wish list**. We are especially in need of kitten formula, among other essential items.

Alumni Updates

Peggy, a long-term Richmond SPCA resident and staff favorite who spent many hours working with our Behavior and Training team, is thriving in her new home.

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After she was stolen from our adoption center in July 2022, **Daenerys**' microchip was scanned by a veterinarian, and the kitty was returned to our care in February. The entire Richmond SPCA staff is thrilled that Daenerys has since been adopted into a happy home.

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Please tag us in your Richmond SPCA alumni pet photos with **@richmondspca** or email us updates about your adopted pets at **info@richmondspca.org**.

Stay up to date on our events, activities and pets who are available for adoption!

The Dog Jog, 5K and Block Party was a smashing success!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our **21st Annual Dog Jog, 5K and Block Party**, presented by **Holiday Barn Pet Resorts**, on March 25. Over 4,000 animal lovers joined us for the tail-wagging festivities, including fun activities for the whole family. Together, we raised more than **$201,000** to help animals who need us most.

The day featured a chip-timed **5K**, a 0.5-mile **Little Paws Fun Run** for kids and a leisurely 1-mile **Dog Jog** for people and their four-legged companions. Our **Block Party** had arts and crafts for kids, an agility course for dogs, live music, food and beverage trucks and local vendors selling pet-themed merchandise.

We and the wonderful animals whose lives you help us save are grateful to you for making this terrific event one for the books!


A little rain didn't stop the lifesaving fun at this year's Dog Jog, 5K and Block Party!

Thank you to our Dog Jog, 5K and Block Party sponsors:

PRESENTING SPONSOR	BLOCK PARTY SPONSOR	RAFFLE SPONSOR	KIDS' FUN ZONE SPONSOR	START AND FINISH LINE SPONSOR	LITTLE PAWS FUN RUN SPONSOR
Holiday Barn PET RESORTS	Moore SUBARU RICHMOND	NDSE Let us be **your** IT department.	Genworth	CoStar Group	rva pediatrics

5K COURSE SPONSOR	RUNNER RECOVERY TENT SPONSOR	ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR	CLEAN COURSE SPONSOR	DOG JOG COURSE SPONSOR	REGISTRATION SPONSOR	WITH SUPPORT FROM
WILLIAMS MULLEN finding yes	Center For Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine, PC	Invisible Fence Brand	Tredegar	APEX SYSTEMS A DIVISION OF ASGN, INC	James River Air Conditioning Co.	VODKA FOR DOG PEOPLE Tito's

THANK YOU FOR SAVING THEIR LIVES

Nutmeg **Priscilla** **Lab Coat** **Pickleball** **Palazzo**
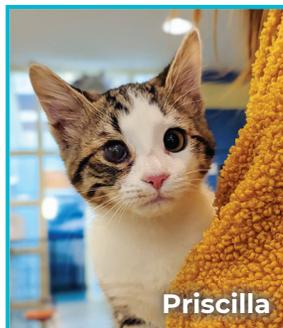
The Richmond SPCA, founded in 1891, is a no-kill humane society dedicated to the principle that every life is precious. We provide essential care to more than 4,000 homeless animals each year or for approximately 300 cats and dogs every day. We deliver affordable veterinary care through our Susan M. Markel Veterinary Hospital to about 11,000 pet patients annually. 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 68,011 pets into loving homes!