

## Bartok gets a fresh set of wheels



*Bartok was suited up and ready to wheel home on his adoption day.*

Bartok, affectionately known as Hot Wheels, came to our humane center from Caroline County Animal Shelter this spring. While he is one of the thousands of sick and injured pets we cared for this year, Bartok's diagnosis is rare – paraplegia, the partial loss of function in both hind limbs. The cause of Bartok's paralysis is unknown, however, Associate Veterinarian Dr. David Molinas found no evidence that Bartok's condition was progressive or that he had additional health concerns. Bartok was healthy and content, aside from his mobility challenges.

**Our team was dedicated to giving Bartok the best life possible** – one that wasn't slowed down by his paralysis. Thanks to the generosity and thoughtfulness of supporters like you, our veterinary team maintains a supply of donated pet wheelchairs for special cases. On a sunny May afternoon, our team took Bartok outside to try out a new set of wheels. After some coaxing and bribery with treats, Bartok took his first rolling steps and never looked back!

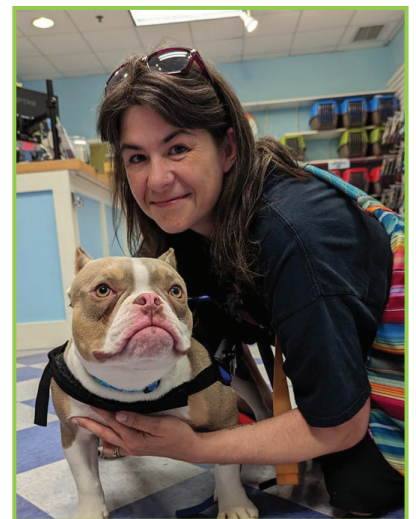
While this special guy's signature resting frowny face is charming enough, his hot rod style caught Monica's eye when she opened the May Richmond SPCA e-newsletter. Monica visited our adoption center the next day – and left with a new best friend. Since then, Bartok and Monica have become inseparable. "He and I are really bonded; he's my shadow. He has completely stolen our hearts and he's got such a personality! He always wants to play or be loved," Monica said.

**Bartok's joyful adoption warmed our hearts, and we were thrilled to learn that in the comfort of a loving home, his condition has shown some improvement.** "He's been able to fully stand up for about 30 seconds at a time and has taken five or six steps. Not sturdy steps, but the other dogs are motivating him," Monica said. "He has a Great Dane sister and a pit bull brother who are teaching him how to 'dog.' Bartok has a passion for life, and he doesn't want to let anything hold him back."

**The Richmond SPCA doesn't let anything stand in the way of happy outcomes like Bartok's, and the support of compassionate friends like you makes that possible. Thank you for being a hero to homeless animals.**



*Left: Manager of Animal Care Cynthia Skala was one of many Richmond SPCA staff and volunteers who were charmed by Bartok during his stay in our humane center. Right: Monica has lovingly nicknamed Bartok "Grumpy Cat" after his charismatic frown.*



## Alumni Updates



**Butters** has claimed the “throne” and rules the roost in his new home in Baltimore, Maryland.



After his adoption into a loving home and a fresh haircut, one of **Neville's** new favorite activities is nodding off on a cozy couch.



**Sweet Potato**, the orange guinea pig, has discovered the love of her life — celery! Her new family is pretty great, too.



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](mailto:info@richmondspca.org).

# Anvil: 21.75 pounds of love



Anvil, aptly named for his size as a 21.75-pound cat, entered our care in March 2024 with a slew of medical conditions. Most obviously, Anvil was extremely overweight and walked on his wrists instead of his feet. While the exact cause of Anvil's unusual mobility habit is unknown, our veterinarians suspect that the deformity was caused by a declaw procedure performed prior to Anvil's arrival at our humane center.

Shortly after we took Anvil into our care this spring, Associate Veterinarian Dr. David Molinas performed a lifesaving surgery to remove a breast cancer tumor. Yes, you read that correctly — while breast cancer is much more common in female cats, male cats like Anvil can also be affected. If that weren't enough, Anvil also has early stage renal disease. This big guy is now in a weight watchers program and has been prescribed supplements to promote joint health in an effort to combat the arthritis developing in his wrists.



*Anvil's bright eyes and friendly disposition haven't been affected by his medical misfortunes.*

Despite these diagnoses, at just 5 years old, Anvil's personality couldn't be more delightful. Anvil's affectionate and loving demeanor and eye-catching size have earned him friendships with many of our staff and volunteers. While the risk of recurrence for Anvil's breast cancer isn't low, our staff remain dedicated to finding Anvil the perfect, laid-back home while continuing to provide him expert medical services in the meantime.

**Every pet deserves the opportunity to find a loving home, and we are grateful for the support of donors like you who ensure we have the resources we need to provide those opportunities to exceptional pets, like Anvil.**



*Anvil has mobility issues likely attributable to a declaw procedure early in his life.*



**Did you know? As of July 1, declaw procedures on cats — outside of medical necessity — are illegal in the state of Virginia. Scan the QR code for more information from Director of Communications Tabitha Treloar.**



# Delivering help, hope and happiness

In the first nine months of our fiscal year, the Richmond SPCA sheltered 5% more homeless animals compared to the prior year. We've been able to come to their rescue and save their lives thanks to your unwavering support and commitment to our mission.

We bring pets into our care in two primary ways – as surrenders from their prior guardians or as transfers from more than 60 shelter partners across the state and about a dozen agencies outside Virginia. Of the more than 4,000 orphaned animals we care for annually, nearly two thirds of them are transfers from other shelters (mainly municipal organizations), and we prioritize bringing to our humane center those pets who are most at risk. For many of our shelter partners, particularly those in under-resourced, rural areas, transferring pets to the Richmond SPCA means providing them access to greater medical resources and more adopters. Our transfer partnerships make a big impact on the live release rate for homeless animals statewide and up and down the east coast.

While the majority of our transfers occur inside the commonwealth, we also bring pets into our care from other parts of the country. In those cases, we're oftentimes responding to calls for help from national partners such as the ASPCA, BISSELL Pet Foundation or Best Friends Animal Society.

This spring, we transferred three Great Danes rescued by the ASPCA from deplorable conditions in a commercial breeding operation in Florida to the safety of our shelter. We're glad to report that we found loving (and large!) homes for Pipsqueak, Tiny and Short Stop.



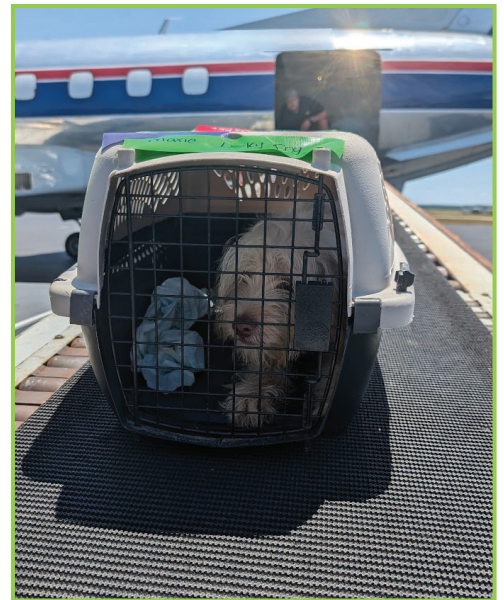
*Lead Animal Care Technician Dani walks with Short Stop.*



*Olivia's crate was loaded directly from the Baton Rouge plane onto our transfer van.*

And in late June, our transfer team rolled onto the tarmac at Richmond International Airport to receive five dogs who were flown in by BISSELL Pet Foundation from an overcrowded facility in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We delivered them all necessary medical care, including heartworm treatment for Olivia, pictured left, to ready them for adoption.

**Your donation to the Richmond SPCA directly equips our admissions team to drive our transfer vehicles to pick up the pets who need our help the most, spreading hope near and far.**



*After a several-hour plane journey, the Baton Rouge, Louisiana pets who were transferred into our care in June touched down in Richmond where our transfer team was waiting to deliver them a fresh start.*

# Richmond Brunch Weekend: September 6-8



*Toast to the weekend with your FUR-vorite brunch buddy.*

Join us and Instagram's @RichmondBrunch as we celebrate the 7th Annual Richmond Brunch Weekend, presented by the Pendleton Law Team. **Over 30 restaurants across RVA have joined together to donate 15% of weekend proceeds to support our lifesaving programs and services.**

All weekend, restaurants will be serving up specialty cocktails, limited-edition peach brunch dishes and even special meals dedicated just for your pup! Scan the QR code to check out the full list of participating restaurants and pet-friendly patios to make your brunch plans. Restaurant reservations aren't required but are highly encouraged. Plus, join us at our kickoff party at Final Gravity Brewing Co. on Friday, September 6 for all sorts of fun, including exclusive swag bags for the first 100 attendees, a vendor market, live music and more.

Scan this code to visit the official Richmond Brunch Weekend website and purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win one of three prize packages including treats for you and your pooch, brunch at home and a weekend getaway to Virginia Beach.



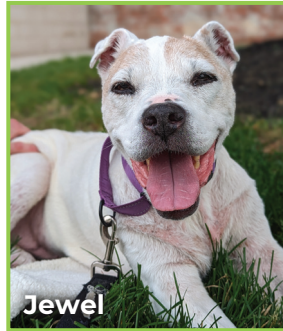
## THANK YOU FOR SAVING THEIR LIVES.



Honey Bunny



Stoop Kid



Jewel



Zant



Marston

The Richmond SPCA, founded in 1891, is a no-kill humane society. 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 9,000 pet patients annually and spay or neuter about 4,000 animals in our Smoky's Spay & Neuter Clinic. 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](http://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 72,935 pets into loving homes!