



SPCA

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Wildlife Encounters on Virginia's Eastern Shore

Recently a fellow SPCA board member and I attended a Wildlife Rehabilitation training conference on the Eastern Shore. We were not interested in becoming wildlife rehabilitators but were interested in what to do and who to call if the SPCA received an inquiry about orphaned or injured wildlife.

We learned that you just don't decide one morning that you are going to rehabilitate wildlife. It is a formal process of education, licensing, and apprenticeship. So we decided to share this information with our members and introduce two wildlife rehabilitators on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

What is wildlife rehabilitation? Wildlife rehabilitation is the process of providing aid to injured, orphaned, or abandoned wild animals in a way they will survive when released to their natural habitat.

Who manages wildlife in Virginia? Wildlife is state-regulated through the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. Most birds are also federally protected through the migratory act.

It is against the law in the state of Virginia to possess, rehabilitate, import, export, cross over state lines, buy, sell or offer for sale any wildlife animals unless otherwise specifically permitted by law.

This means a good Samaritan cannot raise a baby squirrel they find in their yard. They are required by law to contact a permitted rehabber.

What species of animals cannot be legally rehabbed in the state of Virginia? These species are coyotes, adult white-tailed deer, elk, feral swine, and since the COVID pandemic, certain types of bats.

What is required to become a wildlife rehabber? Time and commitment. Wildlife rehabbers are licensed in different categories depending on their level of expertise and training. Pre-rabies exposure vaccinations are required for working with particular species. Continuing education is required each year. Rehabbers with animal holding facilities are subject to inspection by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

So, let's meet two wildlife rehabbers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia – Jodie Sokel and Gay Frazee, and ask them a few questions.

Gay has been a wildlife rehabilitator for 11 years. Jodie has been doing this longer but took a few years off to care for a family member. She's now back at it again.

What species do you handle?

Gay is licensed state and federally for birds, mammals, and reptiles. She takes whatever comes in, primarily Eastern Shore wildlife. This includes songbirds, waterbirds, wading birds, raptors, turtles, tortoises, raccoons, squirrels, bunnies, opossum, deer, and foxes.



Jodie Sokel Handling an Eagle



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2021 Neuter Scooter Schedule

June 17,18

July 15,16

August 19,20

September 16,17

October 14,15

November 18,19

December 2,3

Fees

- Cats (M,F) \$96
- Dogs (M) \$122
- Dogs (F) \$127
- Low income Accomack County residents qualify for financial aid
- Plus \$12 for rabies shot unless you can show proof of vaccination
- Appointments are required

Questions
- call 757-787-7385

Jody is state-licensed so she rehabs mammals and reptiles. She is also listed on Gay's federal permit and is working on her permit. In the meantime, she is also taking in some birds.

How do you physically handle the wildlife you care for?

Sometimes the answer is, very carefully! If they are tiny babies, generally they are easy to handle. Older babies and adults, with gloves, a very firm grip, and a degree of determination. You learn as you go along how not to get hurt or hurt the animal. How to do your best to examine an angry animal when you're alone can be very challenging.

Do you have facilities to house the animals?

Yes, we have both indoor and outdoor facilities. We have crates, containers, cages, habitats, and a large flight area for big birds.

What is involved in caring for the animals?

Caring for the animals requires a great deal of work. Knowing what you are dealing with is key - the type of animal, what kind of injury or problem it has, how to address it. You must know what the animal eats and how to feed it - how much and how often. You must know the proper caging or housing required depending on the animal condition and behavior. You must know how to handle the animal and the best ways to eliminate stress or further injury. This is quite a learning process and you never stop learning, because on the Eastern Shore we deal with so many species. Also, a good relationship with your vet is critical for care.



Gay Frazee with a Screech Owl

What do you feed?



Gay Frazee with a Pelican

This depends, of course, on the animal you are feeding. Some examples are powdered animal-specific milk supplements, baby bird formulas, mealworms, nuts, bugs, seeds, mice and rats, fish and other types of seafood, krill, dog kibble, eggs and fresh produce, fruits, and vegetables. Obviously a real variety.

What should a person do if they find an injured or orphaned animal?

Again, it is species dependent. If you are certain it's safe you can put the animal in a container with air and a towel on the bottom and place the container in a quiet warm dark spot. Then call a rehabber. If it is unsafe, keep an eye on the animal and call a rehabber. The rehabber can help

figure out if there is anything you can do to help until they get there. Never attempt to give food or water. When in doubt if it needs help, call the rehabber first. Many

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animals are kidnapped every year by well-intentioned people thinking the animal needs help when it doesn't.

How do you fund this activity? If someone wants to help to whom do they donate? What supplies do you need?

Wildlife rehabbers receive no state or federal funding so they survive on donations or out-of-pocket spending. We now have a non-profit, Wildlife ER – Education and Rehabilitation. All donations are tax-deductible. A person may donate to:

**Wildlife ER
PO Box 145
Jamesville, VA 23398**

or donate through the PayPal account, wildlifeer@gmail.com

you can also find us on Facebook at Wildlife ER – Education and Rehabilitation

Supplies are always needed and it is somewhat dependent on the time of year. Dog food, puppy food, paper towels, laundry soap, and cleaning supplies. During the summer fresh produce is always appreciated.

Besides donations what do you need?

Transportation of animals!!!! Transportation of animals during the busy season is frequently an issue since babies at home require scheduled feeding and it is difficult to get away to pick up animals. A few dedicated transporters willing to stop what they are doing and pick up and deliver an animal would be great. They do not need to handle or capture. The animals will already be contained.

Rehabbers contact information:

**Gay Frazee
757-443-4774 land line
757-678-6988 cell**

**Jodie Sokel
757-710-3637**

It's Raining Cats and Dogs

Sometimes it is interesting to delve into the curious origins and meaning of commonly used phrases referring to animals. One of these phrases "It's raining cats and dogs" roughly means it raining heavily. But where does the expression come from?

There are various theories. It is possibly derived from a Greek phrase kata doksa, contrary to expectation which the English adopted. This theory is generally rejected.

There were also theories that several poems in the 1600's and 1700's referred to poor drainage systems that in times of heavy rain disgorged their contents during heavy rains including corpses of animals that had accumulated in them. Johnathon Swift first published the phrase in 1710 when he wrote the satirical poem, "A Description of a City Shower".

Another explanation is the thatched roof theory. Thatch is a type of padding made with woven and bound straw, reeds palm or similar plant material. Peasant homes in England often had thatched roofs and cats and dogs would hide in the thatch for shelter. During heavy rain the animals would be washed out of the thatch and fall to the ground, and the term "raining" was considered a humorous description.

No matter the origin, "It's raining cats and dogs" has become a commonplace idiom in today's English language. If you are told, it's raining cats and dogs, be sure to take an umbrella.



"Honey, good thing you had me carry an umbrella."

Pandemic Pups

By Beth Ann Sabo, Founder Eastern Shore Dog

By now you've heard about "Pandemic Pups" – dogs adopted from shelters and rescues, and puppies purchased from breeders in 2020 because we were stuck at home and it was a great time to bond with a new family member. The shelters emptied, puppies went to new homes and love was in the air.

But here we are, a year later and it's a completely different story. The shelters and rescues are filling with puppies and dogs that got limited (if any) socialization over the last year. After a year of no training, their families are turning them back in because...well, because. Dog trainers are working double-time with wildly reactive dogs and others with separation anxiety and fearfulness.

There's a lesson to be learned, and it's not a new one: As well-adjusted family and community members, dogs require socialization. That's where we come in: Dogs can't do it themselves; we have to help.

What is socialization?

Socialization is how dogs internalize acceptable norms and behaviors through experience. Dog behaviorists took the term from human sociology, probably in the 1980s when sociology as science was gaining popularity.

For dog owners, socialization is the way we introduce our dogs to new environments, people, activities, and other animals until these become familiar. The goal is to give our dogs confidence and resiliency when dealing with novel situations (including places, people, or dogs). The exposures have to feel safe for the dog, so our job is not only to provide the experience but also to learn to interpret our dog's response. Socialization is a life-long process and is part of the adventure of a dog's life that keeps him happy and engaged.

Socialization is not the same as socializing! Your dog never needs to touch noses with other random dogs, and no one else needs to pet your dog. Instead, your dog should feel comfortable when these "others" are near and still be responsive to you.

We can talk more about how to socialize your dog another time but let me introduce you to three shy dogs currently at our SPCA with issues resulting from under-socialization. These dogs will require special handling and an owner who wants to put in some work. They're great dogs and can have a great life with the right people.

Captain (Note - Captain has been adopted)

Captain is a cutie – a tiny dynamo that shows promise as a cuddle bug, although he's a bit shy right now. He has a history of marking inside the house, a habit that has diminished since he was neutered. He'll need regular walks on a leash in quiet places – think any small town on the Shore at low traffic times of the day. He'll sport some snappy potty pants for a while and might benefit from wearing a 6-foot dragline in his new home. His dream owner will initiate potty training protocols, to pave the way to a happy, clean, and dry future.



Jordan

Jordan has been at the SPCA since she arrived as a feral puppy – she has come far, but still has special needs. She's gorgeous, so it's hard not to stare at her. However, sustained eye contact makes her uncomfortable. Her new owner will have to understand dog behavior to help her make progress.

Jordan will not respond well to the pressure of a person who thinks "all dogs love me." She, more than any of the three dogs I saw this week, needs space and time to allow her to make decisions for herself. She would benefit from living with a 6-8 foot dragline without a handle so she doesn't experience the trauma of being leashed for walks. Her ideal situation would be a home where she can live her shadow life as she works out that the world is safe when she's near the right person. Her dream owner would commit to NOT pushing her, just letting her be.

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Brigette

Brigette is a hoot! She came from a hoarding situation and had to bark to feel heard. When I met her, she barked. And barked. And BARKED. We worked out a protocol where she is rewarded for NOT barking and Brigette quickly caught on. She'll be practicing with the staff and volunteers and I think we can conquer her ritualized barking behavior. She will probably be ready for leash walks in quiet places once she's adopted.



Like Captain and Jordan, Brigette tends to be shy. Fortunately, she's sweet and is super-motivated by food and she has a great nose, so there's nose work in her future.

Families that adopt from a shelter or rescue often inherit the lack of time, experience, and effort invested by the previous owners. Captain, Jordan, and Brigette are special dogs that will flourish with new healthier relationships with people who understand their special needs.



Beth Ann has been training dogs professionally since 2006 and is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA, CCPDT) and an AKC Canine Good Citizen/STAR Puppy Evaluator. She was an early adopter of K9 Nose Work through the National Association of Canine Scent Work, is a Certified Nose Work Instructor (CNWI), and has trained K9 Nose Work since 2011. When AKC recognized Scent Work as a performance sport in 2017, Beth Ann was there to train dog-handler teams for competition with this organization, as well.

Beth Ann has Master's degrees - one in Biology and one in Leadership & Liberal Studies. She recently retired from a 35-year federal career working with scientific, law enforcement, and compliance agencies. She and her husband live in Cherrystone, Virginia with five dogs and one very patient Siamese cat, who has trained many puppies and rescue dogs to be cat-respectful. You can learn more about her training at

www.easternshoredog.com

North Accomack Community Cats

By Becca Dinger-Tedder, North Accomack Community Cats Co-chair

Accurate math on free-roaming cats is hard to come by--no one really know how many feral cats there are in the US, and it can be difficult to gather data when it is a topic that receives little support or funding for study. The only math we ARE sure of is that unaltered cats produce more cats, straining community resources and leading to unnecessary suffering within colonies. Fortunately, there's a great way to change that part of the equation:

TNR.

Trap-Neuter-Return programs, also commonly known as TNR programs, are the most humane, cost-effective way to help reduce free-roaming feral/community cat populations. It is the solution entire communities can get behind, whether they like or dislike cats, because it makes both ethical and fiscal sense. TNR involves the humane trapping of cats at identified colony locations (T), spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, and ear-tipping at a local provider (N), and return to their colony (R) to live out their lives. TNR not only creates healthier colonies and reduced cat/human conflict, it also helps relieve the burden on local shelters and



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animal control departments, allowing them to focus more energy and funding on adoptable animals. A neutered, vaccinated, managed colony sustains its numbers instead of experiencing a population explosion once (or twice!) a year.

Northern Accomack Community Cats was established in 2020 with the goal of improving the lives of community cats and their caregivers through TNR efforts, public education, and community involvement. NACC works with local colony caregivers to teach them how to trap, connect them with low-cost spay/neuter services for their feral



cats, and provide guidance on topics such as reducing conflict with neighbors and socializing kittens so that they have a better chance at finding a loving indoor home. Despite the complications of starting a TNR program at the exact same time a pandemic hit, we provided TNR for 149 cats between March 2020 and February 2021, as well as re-homing 14 kittens and providing referral to services outside our area for 100+ cats. Our second year began in March 2021 with 65 cats TNR'd—already surpassing 1/3 of our first year total—and we have big plans for the summer and beyond.

Our current service area encompasses northern Accomack County (north of Onley, west of Wallops) and is limited to feral/community/free-roaming cats only. If you or someone you know feeds a feral colony in northern Accomack County and would like

more information on our low-cost TNR services, please visit our website at www.accomackcats.org and fill out our Colony Registration form. Our website is also a great place to find information about how and why TNR works, what you can do to help, ways to mitigate conflicts, current and past fundraising and community outreach activities, and how you can donate to our program to help your local community cats—and their people. You can also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/accomackcats> for updates on our work as well as announcements about fundraisers, informational sessions, and upcoming TNR plans.

Remember the SPCA Eastern Shore in your will

A bequest continues your commitment to animal welfare

Your membership dollars and donations, such as those in memory of or in honor of some special person or pet or those to Murphy's Fund, mean a lot to us, and we and the animals are grateful for every penny.

But there's another way to donate that you may not have thought of, and it plays an important role in sustaining the shelter's long term financial health. Please consider a bequest to the SPCA Eastern Shore in your will.

As a private animal shelter, the SPCA Eastern Shore receives no government funding aside from \$921 from Accomack County to support our operations. Other than adoption fees, some fundraiser events, and grants that we are able to secure, we rely entirely on the generosity of you, our supporters.

Since we are a registered non-profit 501(c)3 organization, your gift to us is non-taxable, so your estate receives a tax benefit, and we receive the entire amount of your bequest. We rely on the investment income from these monies to help provide the day-to-day operating expenses of the shelter as well as to help pay for occasional larger capital projects.

So when you sit down to do your estate planning or update your will, please consider including a bequest to the SPCA Eastern Shore shelter. The Eastern Shore's homeless animals for generations to come will benefit from your thoughtfulness.

Memorials

In Memory of

"Fritz" Shirley Dougherty

"Jack" White Diane & Jerry Sterling, Dan & Marilyn Hillman

Herman Parks Terry & Earl Frederick

Steven Glassman Diane Grimes

"Peake" Crowson Barbara & Kevin Haxter

Lucy Hermann Caramine Kellan & The Girls,
Martha & Rob Goodman, Amanda & Campe Goodman,
Maria & Dough Hillebrandt, Fredrika Jacobs

"Peete" Sawyer Barbara & Kevin Haxter

Edna Markulin Mary Volz, Teresa & Kevin Daley,
Steve Fino, Sally & Ray Martin

John Miller Gail & Jim Drebes

Maria DeVasto Frank & Katherine Hall, Barbara
Walker, Don & Kathleen Jenkins, Sherry Martin, Linda Labella,
George & Mary Garner, Geraldine Burns & Edward O'Hara

Lois Ann Turner Richard Turner

"Jake" Upshur Hali Plourd-Rogers

Ann Mason Norman Thibodeaux

Nathaniel Williams Patti Turner

"Matrix" Weinbrecht Doug & Nancy Maxwell

"Sunny" Guy Barb Rang

Kim Ray Thompson Mary & John Hyslop

"MarMar" Martin Bob & Betty Kerns

Irene Surran Joe & Scottie Paschall

Jerry Lilliston Terris Kennedy,
Johnny & JoAnn Kirkpatrick, Marshall Poulson,
Lisa & W. Revell Lewis III, Jerry & Diane Sterling,
David & Chessie Hickman, Linda Deaderick,
Tammy Nelson & Sam, Kasey, & Kristen

Brian Daley Terris Kennedy, David Moon,
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Spangler, Juanita Daley,
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wessel, Barbara Haynes,
Kimberly Moore, Robert & Kathleen Bredimus

Kenneth Simmons Evergreen United Methodist Church,
Stephen DiVincenzo, Jerry & June Evans, Scott Truncale,
Derek Hodges, Webster & Sharon Martin, Linda & Ed,
Marsha & Dave, Meredith and families, Lynne Belanger,
Beryl Brimer, Tammy Seymour, Karen Jones & Clifford Gabriel

Maggie Lewis Gwendolyn Coghill

"Mae Ling" & "Zoe" Snyder Anne Townsend

Blondie Mountain Gwendolyn Coghill

Sylvia Lurty Nancy James

Dan Runde Ethel Layton

"Max" Rothman Peggy & Gary Mackey

"Marlin" Martin Ethel Layton

In Honor of

Winston McCleish Sue McCleish

Scottie Paschall Jenny Floyd

"Mushu" & "Sugar" McCleary Sue McCleary

Saving Those Who Cannot Save Themselves

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**Be sure to
visit SPCA
Eastern
Shore on
Facebook
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Petfinder to
see all the
animals
available for
adoption**

Petfinder.com
ADOPT A HOMELESS PET

Thanks for your continuing generous support of Murphy's Fund

One of the many things for which we're grateful here at the SPCA Eastern Shore shelter is Murphy's Fund. We have money in our budget for routine medical needs such as vaccines and spay-neuter surgeries when our animals require them, but occasionally emergencies and non-routine needs arise, and that's when Murphy's Fund comes to the rescue.

Murphy's Fund contains donations specifically designated for the non-routine medical needs of our pets. One of the prime examples of such a need is heartworm treatment. Murphy's Fund funded entropion surgery for Zeke the bulldog, surgery to remove the eye of Jodi the kitten, and partial funding for cataract surgery to restore sight for poodle Diamond.

Because of the money on hand in this fund, we can provide treatment for such cases in a timely manner without having to wait until emergency funds can be raised.

Thank you so much for continuing to make it possible for us to provide this kind of care to our animals.



Diamond after surgery