



GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS HUMANE SOCIETY

Adoption Packet and Support Guide

804-693-5520

6620 Jackson Lane Gloucester, Virginia 23061

www.gmhumanesociety.org

Monday: **CLOSED**

Tuesday – Sunday: 12 to 5pm



About Us



STARTING IN 1912



GMHS was formed to address community concerns regarding cruelty and abuse of animals in the Middle Peninsula. Primarily concentrating on livestock in the early years, GMHS' focus shifted to advocating on behalf of "companion" animals as the area became less rural and populations grew in the 1970s, which is when the first physical shelter was built. In July 2009, GMHS moved into the state-of-the-art shelter facility Middle Peninsula citizens and homeless animals now enjoy.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US

We are **dedicated** to help our adopters in every way that we can! Please use the resources below and reach out whenever you need.

Adoption and Intake Manager:

Jasmine Jutras

assistantmanager@gmhumanesociety.org

Adoption Specialists:

animalplacement@gmhumanesociety.org

General phone number: 804-693-5520

Join our Facebook Alumni!



Here at GMHS we love staying connected to all animals that were adopted from us! Join our **OFFICIAL** Facebook Alumni page below to share photos, stories and connect with others! facebook.com/groups/AlumniGMHS



How to GET INVOLVED



VOLUNTEER

Do Something Rewarding!

Volunteers contribute valuable resources - time, knowledge, talent, skills, and leadership!

Some volunteer duties include: Socialize cats and dogs, help with animal care and cleaning, help with transport of animals (must be 25 years or older) and offsite events and onsite events (must be 18 years or older).

If interested, you can fill out an application on our website or apply in person.

FOSTER

Be a Lifesaving Hero!

GMHS foster volunteers welcome pets into their home for a short amount of time, often saving their lives. If you are interested in opening your home and providing love to a shelter pet, fostering might be for you!

You can fill out an application on our website or apply in person, and you must be 18 years or older.



Others Ways to Help....

DONATE



MONETARY DONATIONS

GMHS animal welfare programs and services help thousands of pets and families each year. This is all possible because of you! Below are a few ways donations currently help at GMHS.

- \$50-150 - provide wellness care.
- \$75-\$200 - treat litter of kittens for upper respiratory infection.
- \$100-\$300 - transport van load of homeless pets to partner shelters.

If you would like to donate online, follow the link below, or you can always visit us in person! www.gmhumanesociety.org/donate.html

OTHER DONATIONS

Cat Items: Canned cat and kitten food, dry cat and kitten food, cat treats, cat toys including cat nip, milk replacement (KMR).

Dog Items: Canned dog food, dry dog food, dog treats, creamy peanut butter, KONG toys including XX and XXXL size, regular dog toys.

Small Animals: Timothy hay, small animal (rabbit, guinea pig, hamster etc.) food, small animal hutches and cages, small animal treats, small animal toys.

We can **ALWAYS** accept any animal-related donation! Above items are what we always need the most. As always, thank you for any donation you provide.

What to Do

POST ADOPTION



IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

After adoption, animals can become stressed in their new environments, as the sounds, sights, and smells are different. This may have a negative impact on the animal's immune system, causing lethargy, sneezing, runny nose, eye discharge, lack of appetite, or hiding. If these conditions persist, please contact a licensed veterinarian.

What is included medically with my adoption?

When adopting from GMHS, your adoption fee covers:

- Spay/Neuter
- All age-appropriate vaccinations (sometimes adopters need to booster)
- Rabies vaccination if older than 12 weeks
- Microchip
- Age-appropriate diagnostics for dogs (heartworm test)
- Age-appropriate diagnostics for cats (FIV/FelV test)
- Heartworm treatment if the dog is heartworm positive

Making your vet appointment

As our adoption contract states, please bring your new pet to a licensed veterinarian within 14 days of adoption!



Additional Things

POST ADOPTION

City License

It is **REQUIRED** in Gloucester County to have dogs registered through the city and have a city license. Cats are not required to. You can obtain this license at the local treasurer's office, and there is proof needed for rabies vaccination for dogs four months and older.

Rabies Vaccination

Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society will vaccinate all animals over four months for rabies, for which you will receive a vaccination certificate. If an animal is adopted at an age of less than four months, it will have receive a rabies vaccination later. In that case, it will be the owner's responsibility to have the animal vaccinated as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Microchip Registration

Your pet will be microchipped for its own safety. It is the owner's responsibility to contact the microchip company to provide and update data. Information about the company will be provided at the time of adoption. Please contact the shelter if you have questions regarding microchipping or the company.

AS ALWAYS, if you ever have any questions, please contact us! We are always here to help you.



Supplies

FOR YOUR NEW PET

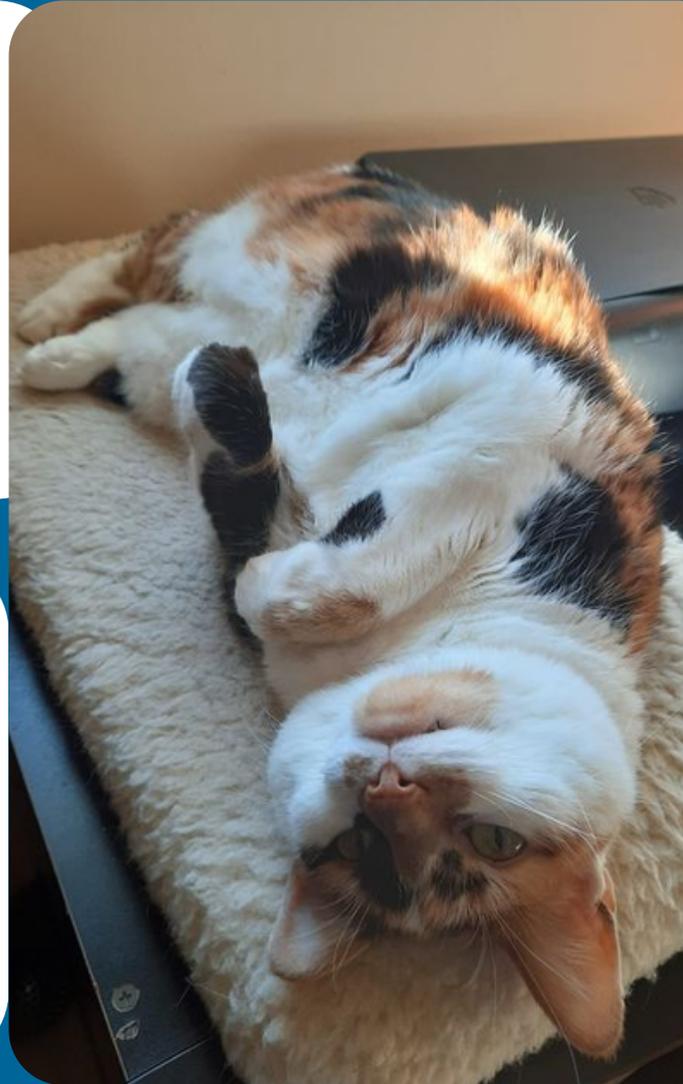
CAT SUPPLIES

Food, water and food bowls, litter box and litter scoop, cat litter, cat carrier, cat scratcher/board, cat toys and cat bed.



DOG SUPPLIES

Food, water and food bowls, collar, leash, harness, ID tags and city license, rabies tag, dog bed, dog toys, kennel.



For the healthiest diet, try to avoid food brands such as 9 Lives, Friskies and Fancy Feast for cats. And try to avoid food brands such as Purina Dog Chow, Gravy Train and Alpo for dogs.

For affordability and food quality, consider IAMS, Purina Pro Plan, Science Diet, Purina One.

Decompression

THREE DAYS, THREE WEEKS, THREE MONTHS



When it comes to decompression, you want to remember the "3, 3, 3 rule" for cats and dogs. Some animals may adjust quicker more quickly than others. however, most Some may appear timid or shy, or may try to hide. may come off timid, try to hide, and not seem like what you saw at the shelter. It is not unusual for personality shifts to occur as pets adjust to their new surroundings.

Transition does not happen overnight!

3 Days

During the first three days, animals typically will feel overwhelmed and scared of new sights, sounds and smells. It is not uncommon during this time for animals to be afraid, hide, or lack interest in playing or food. It is best to connect slowly with your animal, allowing them time to fall in love with you.

3 Weeks

At the three week mark, you should notice your pet becoming more comfortable. Your animal is beginning to adjust to its new routine. This is when your pet's personality will begin to shine as they realize they have a new, loving, forever home. Previous personality or behavior issues may vanish as your pet decompresses.

3 Months

At three months you and your pet have built trust in each other, and you have created a bond. The animal has security with you, and they have security in their home and with the normal routine. At this mark they know what to expect of you, and what you expect of them.

Making Friends

CAT INTRODUCTIONS



When it comes to introducing cats to another cat(s) or to a dog(s) you **MUST** go slow. Forcing an interaction and having a first "bad" experience can break it.

Step One

You want to keep your new cat separated in his or her own room. This room should contain his or her own litter box, food and water bowls, bed and toys. This will help your cat leave its personal scent, while the resident animal become accustomed to it.

Step Two

You want to allow them to smell each other under the door frame, this helps get used to the new scent. You can also try "scent-swapping" which involves taking an item such as a blanket or a bed from the new cat and let the resident animal have it, and vice versa.

Step Three

You will begin by feeding them at the door with it closed, this helps get acknowledged that there is another animal present and associating food is a positive reinforcement. This typically helps animals become acquainted better.

Step Four

Give it at least five days, and then you can start allowing them to make visual contact. This can be done by cracking the door open and allowing them to see each other, or there are times people will use a baby gate. If hissing, lunging or growling persists, go back to step one. For dogs, please keep the dog leashed.



Reminder: Never leave animals unattended with each other unless you are **POSITIVE**, they are doing well together. This can take **WEEKS** to do.

Warning signs for cats include hissing, ears back, low growling, and swatting.

Making Friends

DOG INTRODUCTIONS



When it comes to introducing dogs to another dog(s) or to a dog(s) you **MUST** go slow. Forcing an interaction and having a first "bad" experience can break it.

Step One

When introducing dogs, have two handlers take the dogs on a walk, making sure each is leashed and separate. Begin with the dogs approximately twenty feet apart and slowly close the distance. As the dogs come closer, note any negative body language. If this occurs, separate the dogs (both inside and out) and try again later.

Step Two

If the walk went well, proceed to the home. Outside, allow the dogs to sniff each other. If the meeting goes positively, allow the resident dog to enter the home first, still with a handler on a leash. Keep the new dog outside for a brief time before going inside.

Step Three

While still maintaining both dogs on a leash, allow the new dog to smell the inside of the home. Monitor body language closely. The resident dog may be confined to a separate room for a short time while the new dog explores.

Step Four

If all interaction has remained positive, remove leashes one at a time. Watch closely while the dogs interact and play. If the play becomes rowdy too quickly, return dogs to the leash and take them on another parallel walk. Monitor feeding and play carefully, watching for any signs of possessiveness or aggression.

Reminder: Never leave animals unattended unless you are **POSITIVE**, they are doing well together. This can take **WEEKS** to do.

Warning signs for dogs include body stiffening including of the tail, low growling, avoidance, and hard staring.



Housetraining

PUPPIES & DOGS



The most important thing you want to do is develop a **routine schedule** for your new puppy or dog. Even adult dogs, sometimes, need to be further housetrained.



Here are some **QUICK TIPS** for *housetraining*

Until you have developed a solid routine, take your dog out first thing in the morning, 30 minutes after eating, and right before you take your bedtime. This will help develop a solid routine for you and your new pup!



Until your dog is perfectly house-trained, don't leave them alone unless they are in a dog-proofed area or crate. Supervise your dog at all times in the house.

Take your dog out on leash often. Start by walking them at two-hour intervals.



If you see your dog sniffing and circling in the house, take them out immediately. This is a sign they may need to use the bathroom.

Praise and reward with a treat when they goes outdoors!

Keep in mind that your dog's size affects how long they can hold it. The smaller the dog, the less time you can expect them to go without a bathroom break.



REMEMBER!

If your dog makes a mistake while you are not there, don't scold or punish them. They won't make the connection with their accident—smacking them or rubbing their face in their own mess will just make them afraid of you.

Litter Box 101

FOR CATS & KITTENS

Most cats are familiar and have an instinct to use the litter box. However, with a new cat, you will want them to know where the litter box is by showing them. Also, if there is ever evidence of urinating or defecating outside the litter box, please take them to the veterinarian. While sometimes behavioral related, it could also be a serious medical issue.

Below are some helpful tips!



Cats like a clean litter box! If the litter box is not cleaned, they can and will use the bathroom outside of the litter box. Always keep the litter box clean. Scoop the litter box at least once daily and completely empty and clean it with mild dishwashing liquid weekly, and replace litter.



Some cats can be picky when it comes to litter, the safest bet is to use clumping clay litter that is soft and use enough where it is "deep" for them. If you introduce a different type of litter like pellets or crystals, slowly introduce them by having the regular litter on top, and the new litter on the bottom. Then, when adjusted, switch to the new litter.



The magic number is one litter box per cat in the household, plus one extra—these litter boxes should be in different rooms to count as separate litter boxes.

Try to avoid scented litters, this can cause urinary tract infections. If odor is an issue, try sprinkling some baking soda to soak up the smell. This is safer to use!



REMEMBER!

Do not punish your cat for marking as this will not solve the problem; this can make your cat even more anxious.

Crate Training FOR DOGS



Some people prefer to crate train their puppies and dogs, while other prefer not to. If you plan to crate train your puppy or dog, you want to follow these tips to ensure you are doing it correctly.

Step 1: Introduce your dog to the crate

Encourage your dog to enter the crate by throwing in a favorite treat. Once the dog is inside, praise them! Slowly begin shutting the crate, feeding them treats through the kennel. Keep the door closed for ten seconds at first, slowly building up the time your dog spends in the crate.

Step 2: Feed your dog meals in the crate

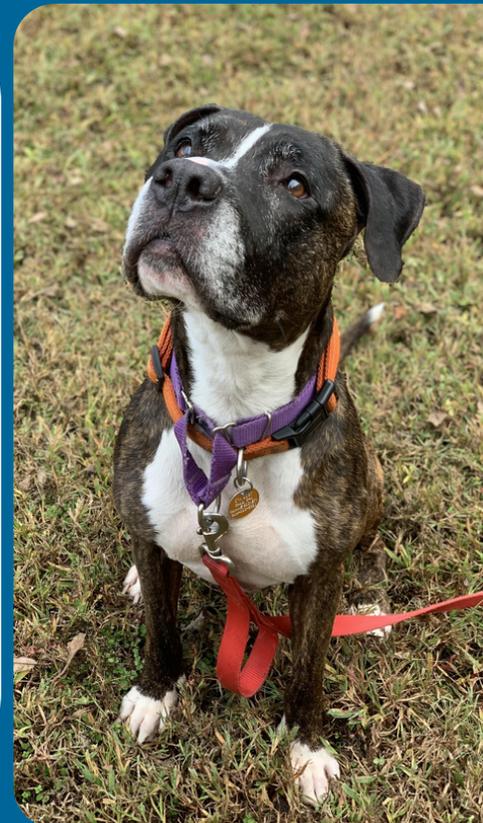
After introducing your dog to the crate, begin feeding them regular meals near the crate. This will create a pleasant association with the crate. Try placing the food bowl inside the crate and allow them to eat inside. At first, they should eat with the door open, then transition to eating with the door closed. If the dog begins to whine to be let out, you may have increased the length of time too quickly.

Step 3: Practice with longer crating periods

After you find your dog is eating regular meals without any signs of fear in the kennel, you can begin to give them cues. When you need your dog in the kennel try voicing cues such as "crate" or "go inside", and make sure you're giving them a treat and praise when they go inside.

Once the door is closed, sit quietly near the crate for five to ten minutes and then go into another room for a few minutes. Return, sit quietly again for a short time and then let them out. Repeat this process several times a day, gradually increasing the length of time.

Once your dog will stay quietly in the crate for about 30 minutes with you mostly out of sight, you can begin leaving them crated when you're gone for short time periods.



Crate Training

FOR DOGS PT. 2



Some people prefer to crate train their puppies and dogs, while others prefer not to. If you plan to crate train your puppy or dog, you want to follow these tips to ensure you are doing it correctly.

Step 4, Part A: Crate your dog when you leave

After your dog can spend about 30 minutes in the crate without becoming anxious or afraid, you can begin leaving them crated for short periods when you leave the house. Put them in the crate using your regular command and a treat.

Don't make your departures emotional and prolonged— they should be matter-of-fact. Praise your dog briefly, give them a treat for entering the crate and then leave quietly.

When you return home, don't reward your dog for excited behavior by responding to them in an enthusiastic way. Keep arrivals low-key to avoid increasing their anxiety over when you will return. Continue to crate your dog for short periods from time to time when you're home so they don't associate crating with being left alone.



Step 4, Part B: Crate your dog at night

Put your dog in the crate using your regular command and a treat. Initially, it may be a good idea to put the crate in your bedroom or nearby in a hallway, especially if you have a puppy.

Once your dog is sleeping comfortably through the night with the crate near you, you can begin to gradually move it to the location you prefer, although time spent with your dog—even sleep time—is a chance to strengthen the bond between you and you.

Indoor vs. Outdoor **FOR CATS**



Some people want to allow their cats to go outside, which is fine. However, it is best to know of the dangers when allowing a cat to go outside. If you want to allow the cat to go outside due to you thinking it is bored, then look at the cat enrichment page first before letting them go outside. As a reminder, it is always safer for cats to stay inside, and they live longer!

Disease

: When your cat ventures outdoors, it is likely to encounter other cats. Community cats may belong to neighbors or be feral; and can share diseases with your animal. These diseases include: feline leukemia (FeLV), feline AIDS (FIV), feline distemper (panleukopenia) and upper respiratory infections (or URI)

Parasites

While not usually life-threatening for cats, several common parasites can be picked up by your kitty when venturing outdoors, including: fleas, ticks, ear mites, gastrointestinal worms, and ringworm.

In Virginia, ticks are plentiful, especially in Spring. Fleas and ticks can also be passed from animals to humans!

Other Threats

Cars: Contrary to popular belief, cats do not have the innate instinct to avoid busy streets, and they frequently get hit by cars.

Loose dogs and wild animals: We may think of our feisty felines as good hunters who are capable of taking care of themselves with sharp teeth and claws. Unfortunately, cats may be good hunters, but they also often wind up being hunted.

Toxins and poisons: Outside cats also face danger from coming into contact with toxins, such as antifreeze, or rodent poisons.

Animal cruelty: Although animal abuse is rare, it is still a danger for roaming cats. Human predators have been known to shoot cats with BB guns or arrows. Cats can also become trapped in crawl spaces or other hazards.

If you decide to allow your cat outdoor time, be mindful of the dangers, and do all you can to make their adventures safe.

Declawing Alternatives **FOR CATS**



Declawing is a surgery that involves amputation of the last bone of each toe. It would be like cutting off your fingers at the last knuckle. While declawing used to be common, declawing is now a controversial surgery, which is now banned in Maryland, New York and many cities in California. Always consider alternatives before declawing.

Common Side Effects of Declawing

There are many side effects cats suffer after declawing. While some are more common than others, you will likely notice at least one of the following....

- Complications with the surgery
- Behavior changes including increased biting
- Urinating outside of the litter box
- Lameness in their paws
- Arthritis
- Pain and nerve damage

Alternatives to Declawing

Trimming your cat's nails is a viable alternative to declawing. If you have a kitten, start by trimming nails early and often. This will become a part of their regular routine. Your veterinarian can show you how to trim the nails of adult cats.

Your cat's natural urge to scratch can be met using a scratching post or board. Deterrent sprays can be used to discourage scratching on furniture.

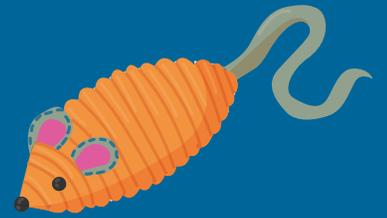
You can also use tape designed to place on the sides of your couch so when your cat goes to scratch, they learn they cannot scratch. In a few weeks, take the tape away.

Cat nail caps, or also known as "Kitty Caps", are also an inexpensive and humane alternative to declawing, and can last up to two months.

*Always consider alternatives **FIRST.***

Cat Enrichment

HAPPY CAT



Enrichment is essential for cats and kittens of all ages and keeping your cat's environment exciting and stimulating will promote a happy and healthy life. Check out below the different types of enrichment for your cat, and search online for additional resources of each! This is also a fun activity for the family and kids.

Environmental enrichment is all about creating a fun and safe place full of a variety of toys and spaces that will help banish boredom! Ideas will include letting cats watch fish or birds or the TV or computer, cats listening to music, or playing cat games on the TV or computer.



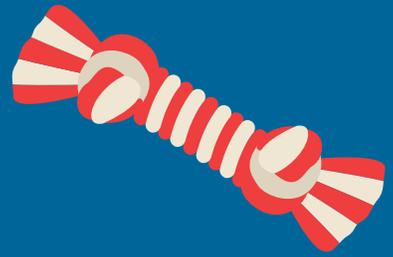
Food enrichment is making mealtime fun, challenging and interactive for domestic cats is a great way to satisfy their innate instincts and curiosities. Every meal is an opportunity for enrichment! You can make mazes, food puzzles, hunting games, and more!

Toy enrichment is essentially the same as food enrichment, but with toys! You can build mazes, use toilet paper rolls with feathers, and get creative. You can also use regular toys like wand toys, catnip toys, and more. Anything mentally stimulating for cat is a happy cat.



Dog Enrichment

HAPPY DOG



The key to a happy and healthy dog is regular enrichment and allowing them to engage in their innate behaviors, such as playing, chasing, smelling, chewing and scavenging. By allowing your dog to engage in these behaviors, you allow them to be physically, emotionally and mentally satisfied. You can always check online for additional examples!

Making mealtime fun, challenging and interactive is a great way to satisfy your dog's innate instincts and curiosities. Every meal is an opportunity for enrichment, and food puzzles are a great way to slow down your dog's eating and provide mental stimulation.



Keeping the inside of your home stimulating will help decrease boredom and decrease potential behavioral issues. Get creative! You can make fun at home obstacles, create DIY puzzles for them, scent games, and so much more. By keeping them mentally stimulating will help aid in unwanted behaviors.

While not every dog loves strange people or other animals, it is important to provide some social interaction. Some ways to provide social enrichment is interaction with other dogs (if they are comfortable to), interacting with a friend or family's dog, and simply spending time with them, too.



Resource Guarding

HOW TO HELP



Resource guarding refers to dogs showing aggressive behavior when you try to approach something they find valuable such as toys or food. It could be mild behavior, but some dogs show worse aggression. It is better to start addressing the problem early, and working with it.

Noticing The Signs

Because resource guarding can escalate to more aggressive behavior—including air snaps or even bites—it's crucial to learn the signs so you can intervene. Watch for cues that your dog is anxious around food, toys, beds or even you or another human family member. Signs of resource guarding can include: growling, ears pointed backward, lip-licking, A sudden and obvious stiffness in the body, hyper-fixation on an object, dog or human, Increased attentiveness to other dogs

Ways to Address It

Always provide sufficient and equitable resources. To avoid resource guarding between dogs, make sure you have enough toys, beds, treats and food to go around.

Use positive reinforcement to encourage good behavior. Try dropping tasty treats into the bowl while your pup is eating. Similarly, if they're defensive toward other dogs, try to make dinnertime a positive experience. If they mind their own business and don't growl at their companion, offer treats.

Teach "give" and "leave it" cues by pairing the action (the dog giving something up) with a reward (a treat)—and always offer a trade if you need to take something away.

When Other Dogs Are Involved

Sequester dogs in different rooms during mealtimes to prevent food aggression. Consistently reward good behavior and never punish dogs for "bad" behavior. Work to build your dog's confidence. Expose them to new situations, people and animals (safely, course) and reward them when they do well. Be especially alert in new situations, which can bring out these tendencies. Stay vigilant in other places, too. Don't bring toys to the dog park, and if you take your pup to doggie daycare, ask the staff to tell you if they notice any guarding behavior.

If you notice that resource guarding is still not getting better, please consult with a certified dog trainer.

Positive Reinforcement

TRAINING FOR DOGS

Positive reinforcement training means training with rewards, such as a treat, praise or a toy. You give your dog something they want when they're behaving in a way that you like. Then, they'll be more likely to behave in that way in the future. Training with rewards is all about teaching your dog that good things happen when they make a good choice.



Reward with food

Treats that dogs especially love (something soft and smelly like cheese, sausage or chicken) can be used as the 'gold star' reward when your dog gets something spot on. You can also use these to keep your dog's focus and attention in environments where there are more distractions.

Reward with toys

Some dogs really love to play, and you can use a game with toys, such as fetch or tug, to reward them for good behavior. Make sure you teach your dog how to release toys using reward-based training so that you can get the most out of your sessions.

Reward with attention

We often underestimate how valuable our attention is. Most dogs feel good any time we look at, touch or talk to them. This means that we are constantly influencing their behaviour with our attention. Make sure your dog gets your valuable attention for the good choices they make

You can always work with a certified trainer! Or, some additional resources would be searching online, or referencing to Youtube for free videos.

When to Reward

When you start training a new skill, it is important that you reward your dog every time they are successful. When they have learnt the new behaviour and can do it well in a variety of environments, you can change the type of reward you give them.

You won't need to give them a treat for sitting for the rest of their life, you can say "good dog" instead and occasionally give them a treat as a bonus. For example, when using food to train a new behaviour, it's useful to reward every time to begin with until your dog really understands what you'd like them to do.

Common Cat Concerns

THINGS TO WATCH

There are always things you want to watch for after adoption. The most common in cats is going to be Upper Respiratory (URI) as the transition from shelter to a new home can be stressful, and this causes the immune system to weaken. Read below the signs of this, and the treatment. There are other concerns to watch for, too. As always, reach out to your veterinarian if you have any concerns.



What is Upper Respiratory in cats?

Feline upper respiratory infection is a common illness in cats. It's similar to a cold, but it can be much more serious. It's caused by different viruses or bacteria, and it targets the upper airway -- the nose, throat, and sinuses -- rather than the lungs.

COMMON SIGNS

- Sneezing
- Congestion
- Runny Nose
- Cough
- Runny eyes
- Lack of eating or drinking
- Lethargy
- Fever

TREATMENT PLAN

The best course of action if your feline is to monitor symptoms, and if you have other cats in the household, or dogs, to keep them separated as this can be contagious.

AT HOME CARE

Keeping them separated will lower stress and keep stress levels down. Make sure your cat is eating, drinking and using the litter box. You can use a warm washcloth or compress to clean around eyes and nose

WHEN TO SEE A VET

Not eating or drinking more than 24 hours, green or yellow discharge from eyes or nose, difficulty breathing, panting or "open mouth" breathing, vomiting and diarrhea or little to no improvement. **SEE A VETERINARIAN.**

Feline Disease

FIV AND FELV

If you adopted a cat from Gloucester–Mathews Humane Society that is FIV or FeLV positive, our adoption staff would have counseled you. However, further education is always a positive start to make sure your new adopted cat stays healthy, as well as preventing it for cats that are not positive.

FIV

What is FIV? FIV is a lentivirus, a slow-progressing virus that can compromise a cat's immune system, reducing its ability to fight off illnesses. The virus has a long latent period then progresses so slowly that it may never affect a cat.

How is it transmitted? FIV is primarily transmitted through a deep, penetrating bite (FIV cat to non-FIV cat) where the virus (in the saliva) is injected directly into the bloodstream of the non-FIV cat. Dogs and humans cannot contract it.

Does it require special care? FIV cats have the same needs as non-FIV cats. It is important to keep up with routine veterinarian visits and keeping your cat inside due to their lowered immune system. Keeping them inside also reduces the risk of your cat spreading it to community cats.

How long can an FIV cat live? Several studies have shown cats with FIV can live long and normal lives, so long as they see their routine veterinarian and keep them healthy!

FeLV

What is FeLV? Feline leukemia, FeLV, is a virus-based disease that can suppress a cat's immune system and impair its ability to fight off other viruses, bacteria and even fungus. It can lead to other health problems.

How is it transmitted? Higher concentrations of the virus are found in saliva and some small amounts are also present in the blood, urine and feces of infected cats. Most often the virus is transmitted through shared food and water bowls, or one cat biting or licking another

Does it require special care? Most of the medical care for cats with FeLV involves supportive care to keep them healthy including regular visits to the doctor, prompt dental care, and a low-stress home. Keeping them inside is important to also reduce the spread.

How long can an FIV cat live? It can be hard to predict the life expectancy of an infected cat, but the most important thing is to keep them healthy and happy.



Feline Disease

FIP AND FP

Other two diseases to be aware of when it comes to cats is going to be FIP (feline infectious peritonitis) and FP (feline panleukopenia). If you have any suspicion, please follow up with a licensed veterinarian. This is meant to be educational.

FIP

What is FIP? Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a disease of domestic cats also known as feline coronavirus. It is most common in young cats between 3 months and 3 years, but can happen at any age.

How is it transmitted? Most cats become infected through the fecal-oral route (oral contact with infected feces). It is estimated that about one-third of these cats shed the virus in their feces.

What are symptoms? Listlessness, lethargy, decreased or absent appetite, weight loss, and a fluctuating fever. Swollen abdomen and chest are common in a "wet" version of FIP, and difficulty breathing.

Is there treatment? While it can be fatal if not addressed with a veterinarian, there may be ways to treat symptoms and prolong life or discussing alternative treatments under development. In recent studies as early as 2021, there has been a treatment successful in treating FIP.

How do I protect my cat? Keeping up to date with vaccinations is the safest, as well as keeping them indoors.

FP

What is FP? Also known as feline distemper, is a highly contagious viral disease of cats that can be found worldwide.

How is it transmitted? The virus is present mostly in feces of infected cats. An infected cat can transmit through water, food bowls, or on shoes and clothing.

What are symptoms? Listlessness, vomiting and diarrhea are common. Hair coat can become dull and cats fail to groom themselves. They can also develop discharge from eyes and nose, and lack of eating and drinking may be common.

Is there treatment? As with most viral diseases, there is no specific treatment for FPL. Antibiotics do not kill viruses but help control the secondary bacterial infections that commonly develop due to the lack of white blood cells and the resulting reduced immunity.

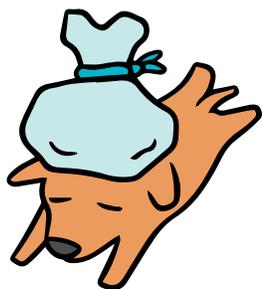
How do I protect my cat? Talk to your veterinarian about a vaccination that is available.



Common Dog Concerns

THINGS TO WATCH

There are always things you want to watch for after adoption. The most common in dogs is going to be Kennel Cough as the transition from shelter to a new home can be stressful, and this causes the immune system to weaken. Read below the signs of this, and the treatment. There are other concerns to watch for, too. As always, reach out to your veterinarian if you have any concerns.



What is Kennel Cough in dogs?

Kennel cough is the nickname for a highly contagious, common airway infection in dogs. It usually occurs in places where there are many dogs in close quarters, like a kennel. It earned this name because its primary symptom is an unmistakable, dry, hacking (or honking) cough in dogs.

COMMON SIGNS

- Coughing
- Congestion
- Difficulty Breathing
- Runny nose
- Lack of eating or drinking
- Lethargy
- Fever

TREATMENT PLAN

The best course of action if your dog is to monitor symptoms, kennel cough can typically go "away" within five to days, or it can become more serious like pneumonia. Keep dogs separated from each other!

AT HOME CARE

Keeping them separated will lower stress and keep stress levels down. Make sure your dog is eating, drinking and using the bathroom. Some dogs can be "silent carriers" so monitor for any abnormal behaviors.

WHEN TO SEE A VET

Not eating or drinking more than 24 hours, green or yellow discharge from eyes or nose, difficulty breathing, panting or "open mouth" breathing, vomiting and diarrhea or little to no improvement. **SEE A VETERINARIAN.**

Dog Concern

HEARTWORM DISEASE

While Gloucester–Mathews Humane Society conducts heartworm treatment for dogs who have it, it is important to continue to be educated even after treatment, and for dogs who are not positive.

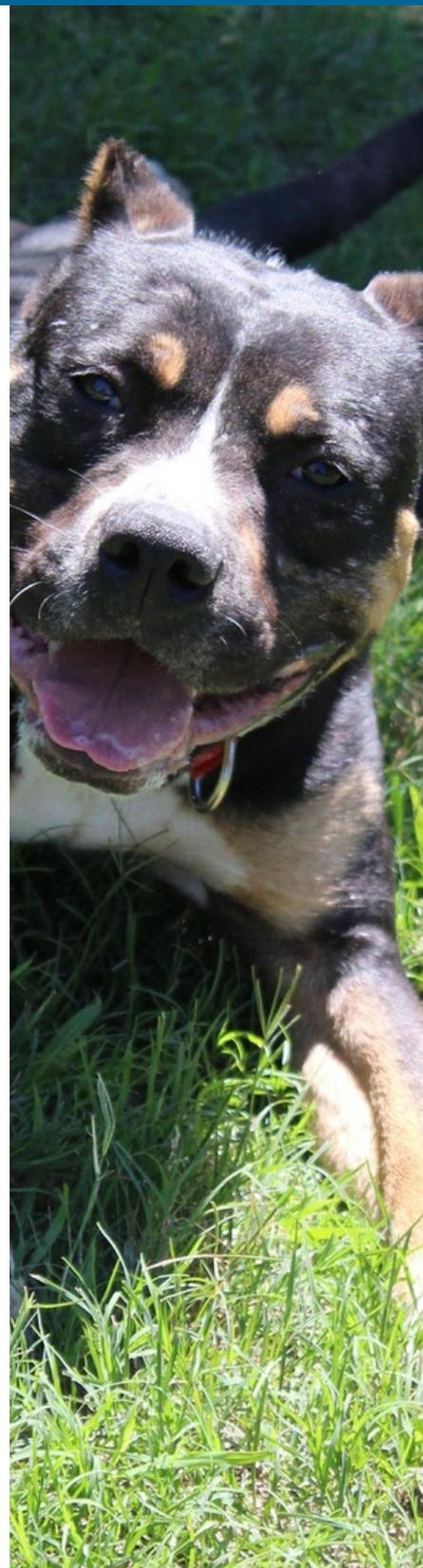
What is heartworm disease? Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in pets in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body.

How is heartworm disease contracted? Since transmission requires the mosquito as an intermediate host, the disease is not spread directly from dog to dog. Spread of the disease therefore coincides with mosquito season, which can last year-round in many parts of the United States.

What are signs of heartworm in dogs? In the early stages there may be no signs. Without proper heartworm prevention or heartworm treatment, signs may include a mild persistent cough, reluctance to exercise, fatigue after moderate activity, decreased appetite, and weight loss. As heartworm disease progresses, pets may develop heart failure and the appearance of a swollen belly due to excess fluid in the abdomen.

How is heartworm disease treated? The best form of treatment will be to consult with your licensed veterinarian as there are different methods. The most common treatment requires an injectable drug, Melarsomine. Melarsomine kills the adult heartworms in the heart and adjacent vessels. This drug is administered in a series of injections. However, treatment varies from the use of antibiotics or keeping your dog on heartworm prevention.

How can you prevent your dog from contracting heartworms? You can prevent your dog from getting heartworms by using a heartworm preventive. When a dog has been successfully treated for heartworms, it is essential to begin a heartworm prevention program to prevent future recurrence.



Resources

DOG TRAINING

If you ever have any behavioral questions you can always call Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society and speak with our behavior manager. However, for additional resources on dog training, we recommend the following below!

Adam Claar *Thoughtful Dogs*

Positive reinforcement training that offers private and day training, family friendly and AKC Evaluation.

Located in Williamsburg, VA.

Contact

adam@thoughtfuldogtraining.com
(804) 824-3743

Cathlyn "Cat" Clark *Bravo Zulu Dog Training*

Positive reinforcement training. Offers private training, day training, and a variety of training packages.

Located in Hampton Roads, VA.

Contact

cat@bzdogtraining.com
(757) 598-2761

Gloucester Kennel Club

Offers a variety of training from Canine Good Citizen, obedience training and performance training.

Located in Gloucester, VA.

Contact

www.gloucesterkennelclub.org
(508) 612-9553

*As always, contact us for
any other questions!*



Resources

GROOMING

Sometimes you need to give your new pup a spa day or a much needed grooming session! Below are some provided resources for grooming in the area.

Blue Collar Dog Services

Blue Collar Dog Services is a grooming salon that strives for quality with a family feel for both dog and owner.

Located in Gloucester, VA
804-993-7023

Village Dog Spa

Village Dog Spa provides a customized experience for your dogs individual needs specializing in your everyday grooms.

Located in Gloucester, VA
804-413-6461

Muddy Marleys

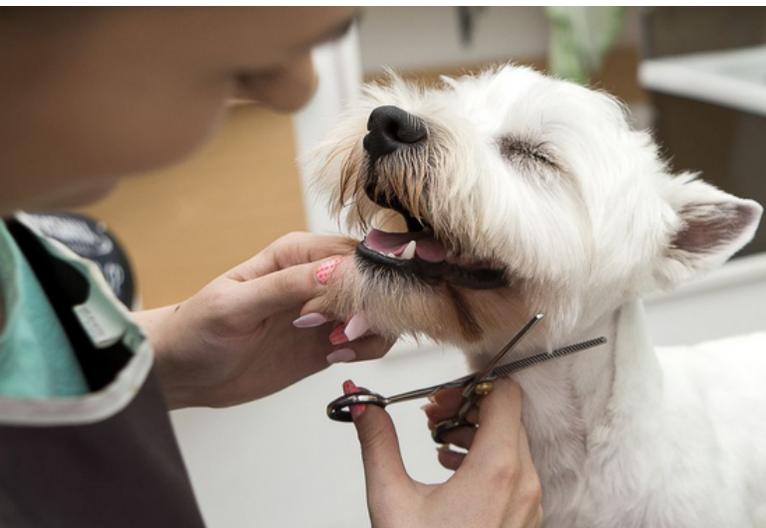
Muddy Marley's provides a comfortable, fun, engaging and spa-like experience for dogs of all sizes and ages for all of their bathing and grooming needs.

Located in Williamsburg, VA
757-808-7161

Purrocious Feline Designs

A cat exclusive salon. Owned and operated by Certified Feline Master Groomers with over 20 years of experience in grooming cats.

Located in Yorktown, VA
757-808-7161



Sandy Creek Pet Resort

Offers boarding for dogs and cats, and senior animals and special needs dogs. Other services include grooming.

Located in North, VA
804-693-2311

Resources

LOST PET



Losing a pet is scary, but it is important to not panic, and take the proper steps in trying to bring him or her home. Follow these tips and tricks in order to help you get your furbaby back home to you!

- Check with local shelters to see if your pet was brought in, as well as notifying them to let them know. It is recommended to also reach out to local animal control agencies, and veterinarian clinics.
- You can make fliers that include your information, an updated photo, and when the pet went missing and where. It is best to bring to animal shelters, animal control agencies, veterinarian clinics and local businesses if they allow you to hang it.
- Check with social media such as community pages, neighborhood pages, to let the community know.
- Notify neighbors, it is best everyone is on the lookout!
- You can make a lost report on Petco through "Love Lost", and also try "Paw Boost."
- For cats, try setting out their litter box (don't clean it!) or some smelly food such as seafood flavored as these scents can lead them back home.

Never give up hope!



Resources

PET PANTRY

In times when you need additional assistance for pet food, Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society does offer the aid in providing food for a limited time. This program is meant to be temporary assistance until you are able to get back on your feet. Below are a few FAQs to help get you started.

What do I need to do to apply for the pet pantry?

You will want to come in person to fill out our pet pantry application. We can provide food the first day, however, there are requirements for any further pickups.

How many times a month can I come?

We offer assistance once a month only. Again, this is meant to be a temporary assistance program.

Do you provide any other animal supplies?

At times we will have additional items such as bowls or litter boxes, but this is dependent on what is donated to us. For things such as litter, this is also dependent on if we have more available to provide to the public, or not, as we utilize these items for our shelter, too.

My pet is on a special diet, I need a specific food, what now?

As the food we offer in our pet pantry is what is donated, we cannot give into any special requirements. What we have available is all we have.

Do my pets need to be spayed and neutered?

If your pet is not spayed or neutered the first day you sign up, we will provide food for the first initial day. After that, we will require that your pet is spayed and neutered in order to continue with assistance. We will provide spay and neuter information, including low cost options.



FIXIN TO SAVE

While Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society does spay and neuter all pets before adoption, if you need assistance for spaying and neutering another pet, or a community cat, there is the Fixin' to Save Spay and Neuter Clinic. Fixin' to Save provides affordable and accessible spay and neuter for cats and dogs.

What services do they provide?

Fixin' to Save offers spay and neuter surgeries as well as additional services included when you have your animal spayed and neutered including vaccinations, heartworm tests and flea treatment.

PLEASE NOTE: You cannot make an appointment to simply vaccinate your pet, or have your pet microchipped, etc. These are services that can be included in your spay and neuter appointment.

Are there package deals?

Yes! There are package deals including spay or neuter, vaccination and simple diagnostic testing.

Are there package deals for feral or community cats?

Yes! There are package deals for feral cats or community cats that need to be spayed and neutered, which help control cat populations in colonies.

How do I make an appointment?

You can book online, or you can call to make an appointment. Contact information is below.

Phone Number: -804-694-0349

Email: Fixintosave@Gmhumanesociety.Org

Website: www.fixintosave.org

Address: 4926 George Washington Mem. Hwy, Hayes, VA 23072



Veterinary Clinics

THAT OFFER A FREE EXAM

It is always important to get your newly adopted pet into a veterinarian to have them established with a veterinarian, and to follow up with any needed medical concerns or vaccinations. Below are local veterinarians that offer **FREE** veterinarian visits for the first visit. Please note that the exam fee is waived, but **not** vaccinations or any medical that is needed or recommended.

Local Veterinarian Clinics

Gloucester Veterinary Hospital

6666 George Washington
Memorial Hwy, Gloucester, VA
804-693-3030

Animal Care of Mathews

10746 Buckley Hall Rd, Mathews,
VA
804-719-8693

Animal Care of Gloucester

4614 George Washington
Memorial Hwy, Hayes, VA
804-642-5740

Hartfield Animal Hospital

10948 General Puller Hwy,
Hartfield, VA
804-776-9219

Williamsburg

Williamsburg Vet Clinic

1303 Jamestown Rd,
Williamsburg, VA
757-253-7387

Five Forks Animal Clinic

4511 John Tyler Hwy Suite C,
Williamsburg, VA
757-378-9028

Newport News & Yorktown

Klin Creek

900 Brick Kiln Blvd, Newport News,
VA
757-886-1300

Klin Creek will offer \$25.00 off the first initial exam if the appointment is made within 30 days of adoption.

Seaford Vet

6627 George Washington Memorial
Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23692
757-833-6440

Woodland Vet **

13148 Jefferson Ave, Newport
News, VA
757-872-8737

Woodland Vet offers a free exam within ten days of the adoption.



Veterinary Clinics

EMERGENCY CLINICS

In time of an emergency, it is always good to know what clinics are an emergency based veterinary clinic. Please note, none of these veterinary clinics offer any type of free services, but are listed as an additional resource in times of an emergency.

Yorktown

Animal Emergency Center

2025 George Washington Memorial
Hwy
Yorktown, VA 23693
757-234-0461

Peninsula Animal Referral Center

1120 George Washington Memorial
Hwy
Yorktown, VA 23693
757-874-8115

Williamsburg

Coastal Animal Referral Emergency

5295 John Tyler Hwy, Williamsburg, VA
23185
757-703-0199



Suffolk

The COVE - Center of Veterinary Expertise

6550 Hampton Roads Pkwy #113, Suffolk, VA
757-935-9111



Backyard Buddies

A PROGRAM AT GMHS

Looking for a cat that will help with pest control? Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society does have a career cat program, known as our Backyard Buddy program!

What is a career cat?

Also known as barn cats or working cats, these are cats that were brought in as stray cats and have shown shelter staff that they do not want to be the typical family housecat we all know. These cats are not well-socialized with people, and prefer the outdoors, and catching pest live mice. A lot of shelters, unfortunately, euthanize these cats, so to help out, we adopt them out to help aid in these situations!

What is needed to adopt a backyard buddy?

All that is needed to adopt one is an approved application, a shelter where you will transition the cat(s) such as a barn or a shed. While we can provide a dog crate or large dog airline crate, and a cat carrier, we do require you have a litter box per cat, a water bowl and food bowl. You want to give barn cats a minimum of **TWO WEEKS** in a secluded area to transition before letting them go.

What comes medically for the cats?

All of our barn cats will come spayed/neutered, rabies vaccinated, FVRCP vaccinated, microchipped, FIV/FelLV tested, and dewormed and given flea/tick prevention for the month.

What happens at time of adoption?

We will go over their medical history, how to transition them, and the set up you want in their new home.

How do I get started?

If interested, please contact our adoption staff where you will fill out an application, and we will proceed from there. Please note that legally in Virginia, we can only adopt out **TWO** animals per person, once a month. Barn cats included.

