



## CCHS Spay/Neuter Clinic

*Steve Vaughn, Executive Director, Caroline County Humane Society*

On October 18, 2010, the Caroline County Humane Society opened the CCHS Spay/Neuter Clinic. This was made possible through a donation from Grateful Paws, Inc. Grateful Paws, a non-profit organization that initially rescued and rehabilitated abandoned cats & kittens, and then began operating a mobile spay/neuter clinic, performed nearly 12,000 spay/neuter surgeries on the mid-shore over the past several years. But due to an illness with the president of Grateful Paws, Denise Golder, the clinic remaining on the Shore came in jeopardy.



Denise however made an offer to donate the Spay/Neuter Clinic to CCHS, which we gratefully accepted. The donation includes a 34' 1997 Ford/Winnebago RV, with the interior modified for performing spay/neuter surgeries, a variety of surgical and medical equipment/supplies, cat carriers and traps, and two portable storage buildings. Over the past two months CCHS has obtained its Veterinary Hospital License to operate the clinic under the supervision of Dr. Celeste Conn and Dr. Christa Johnson, titled/registered the RV to CCHS and moved the RV, equipment, supplies, and sheds to our Ridgely location.

**On October 18, 2010 we held our first spay/neuter clinic, altering 5 public cats, one public dog, one shelter dog and one shelter cat. We plan to hold Monday and Thursday clinics on site, and also hold off-site clinics, such as the spay/neuter clinic we held at the Humane Society of Kent County on October 30, 2010 when 37 cats were altered.**

Monday clinics will normally involve cats/small dogs from pet owners in Caroline County, and shelter animals.



**Help us avoid a CAT-astrophe...  
Give to the Spay/  
Neuter Fund.**

Thursday clinics will take animals from other shelters/rescues on the mid-shore, as well as our shelter animals. We will be utilizing several veterinarians, and interns from the Anne Arundel Veterinary Emergency Clinic, plus a number of dedicated volunteers to operate the spay/neuter clinics.

On the fiscal side, the clinic is expected to be self-sufficient. The fees received for spay/neuters will cover the cost of the vets who are on contract, as well as the cost of supplies and the general operation of the clinic / RV. We will also apply for spay / neuter grants in order to make the spay/neuter surgeries even more affordable to low income pet owners.

Due to the limited room on the RV, the clinic is geared toward cats, but we always try to do a few dogs at the clinics. The spay/neuters are performed at a reduced cost, \$55 for a cat spay and \$40 for a cat neuter. Dog spay/neuters of course run \$30-\$40 higher. All animals at the clinic also receive rabies and distemper vaccinations, checked for fleas and ear mites—treated if needed, and an overall health assessment is performed. CCHS is seeking grants and donations to help low income Caroline County pet owners with the cost of the surgeries. If you wish your contribution to go towards the spay/neuter clinic operations, please specify the spay/neuter fund.

Promoting spay/neuter is the real solution to reducing the number of homeless and abandoned animals that enter our shelter, and I believe we have taken an important step in tackling this issue with taking on the operation of the CCHS Spay/Neuter Clinic for the mid-shore animals.

Over the long term, more spay/neuters mean improved quality of life not only for the animals, but for the people and the communities that we serve.

**3rd Annual Katie Clancy Basket Bingo**

Watch for details on our website [www.carolinehumane.org](http://www.carolinehumane.org)

## From the Executive Director

Steve Vaughn, Executive Director, Caroline County Humane Society

I was about to say “what a challenging year this has been”, but when I stop for a moment, and think over my past four years here at CCHS and the dire situations facing animal shelters and rescues across the county, I realize “challenging” is the norm in this business. Yes, it has been a difficult year—just too many homeless and neglected animals—but it has been a rewarding year too. We have given many an animal the opportunity for a second chance, and you in turn by adopting or making a donation, have made the second chance a reality for the animal. Sometimes that light at the end of the tunnel seems very dim, but it is there and we are making progress. By promoting spay/neuter and increasing awareness on properly caring for your pet, we will reduce the number of stray and homeless animals that enter our shelter and reduce the number of calls we receive on animal neglect. With every challenge there is opportunity, and thank you for helping us face and overcome these challenges.

**Thank you for your support, and I wish all of you and your furry companions a joyous and safe holiday season.**



## 2nd Annual Tails and Trails Dog Walk

The 2nd Annual Tails and Trails Dog Walk at Adkins Arboretum was held on October 2, 2010 to support the Caroline County Humane Society. This annual fundraiser brought in nearly \$12,000, with over \$7,000 coming from pledges collected by the dog walkers. The event began with a Blessing of the Animals by Father Walt Burgess, of the Christ Episcopal Church, and included a search and dog rescue demonstration by the Delmarva Search & Rescue Dogs, a demonstration of the Caroline county Sheriff's K-9 unit by Cpl. Eric Peterson and his K-9 “Rock”, and a dog photographer. A number of vendors offering animal related items were also on hand for the walkers and their dogs to browse their wares. Dog walkers had the choice of a half-mile and one-mile trail to choose for their walk, and rest stations were available on the trails offering water and doggie treats, and a wading pool for the dogs. Walkers received prizes based on the amount of pledges collected, receiving a dog bandanna for a \$30 pledge, a dog walk t-shirt and bandanna for a \$60 pledge, and a ball cap, t-shirt and bandanna for a \$100 pledge. Prizes were also awarded to the top three pledge collectors: Diana LaClair, Mary Frampton-Price and Denise Oliver, Congratulations and thank you!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success, and to our premier sponsor Roxanne Wolf, who has dedicated this fundraiser “Luke’s Walk” in memory of her beloved dog. Also thank you to our Gold Sponsors: Insurance, Inc. and Delmarva Crop Insurance, and our Bronze Sponsors: Provident State Bank, Tuckahoe Animal Clinic, and Chesapeake Anesthesiology and Pain Management.

**We have already scheduled next year’s Tails and Trails Dog Walk for the first Saturday in October: October 1, 2011, from 10 am–2 pm.** Please mark your calendar, and remember it is never too soon to start collecting pledges. Also sponsorships and vendor spaces are available. For fun and excitement for you and your dog(s), this will be the place to be, hope to see you there.

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## Buck and the Animal Care Fund

The Caroline County Humane Society is seeing more and more of the animals that are brought to the shelter having significant medical or injury issues. Often times the severity of medical condition or injury is not apparent until the evaluation by a veterinarian. CCHS maintains an Animal Care Fund that is funded solely by donations and is used strictly for medical care for the animals at the shelter. With an increasing number of animals entering the shelter requiring medical care, the Animal Care Fund is becoming depleted.



One example of the use of the Animal Care Fund, involves "Buck", a one and half year old male lab mix that came to the shelter earlier in the year. "Buck" was an easy-going dog who was just looking for someone to give him some love and attention. "Buck" spent several months at the shelter, and the staff noticed he was experiencing pain in his hip area. An evaluation/x-ray by the veterinarian

indicated that "Buck" had severe hip dysplasia and needed surgery right away. But who would adopt a dog that suffered from hip dysplasia before the age of two?

**We appealed to the rescue organizations that have been very helpful to CCHS with special needs animals. The Animal Resource Foundation (ARF) came through for us, and even found a forever home for "Buck". CCHS paid for the hip dysplasia surgery using funds from the Animal Care Fund.** The surgery involved removing femoral head on the femur bone where it fits in the socket of the pelvis. "Buck" is now in his forever home recovering from the surgery. "Buck" was given a second chance because of the donations that you give, because of the support of the rescue organizations that assist CCHS every day, and because of the commitment and compassion of one individual who is willing to provide the special care needed for a very special dog.

This is just one incident, and there are many more like it throughout the year. Our sincere appreciation goes out to everyone who helps us with the often difficult cases, with not giving up, and understanding that it is "worth it" to make a sacrifice to save an animal's life. **Please give to the Animal Care Fund.**

## Harley

If you ever called or visited CCHS, you probably talked to or met Megan Poet, our receptionist, intake coordinator, spay/neuter clinic coordinator, etc. You name it, she does it. Megan and her significant other, John, recently became homeowners, and soon thereafter, they adopted "Harley". Here is an update from Megan on "Harley".

*"He is doing great and is a great dog! He has his silly moments but is a darling dog that we are glad to have become a part of our family! He gets along with most of the cats, especially Jasper who we also adopted. Harley and Jasper are buddies and enjoy romping and playing together! He was obviously someone's dog and had lived in a house before because he really hasn't had any potty accidents. He's taken to sleeping in his crate at night really well too! We have to keep him in there because our one cat Pippi does not like him much and insists on chasing him into a corner and smacking him with her little paws. Harley loves to play fetch with us either in the house or in the yard. However, he has not grasped the concept that he suppose to bring the ball or toy back to us. He is a wonderful dog and we are very happy to have brought him home!"*

Harley shares his home with seven cats: Jasper, Rhett and Pippi adopted from CCHS; Cody; and Betty Bump, Romeo, and Julie, CCHS foster cats.



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## Caroline County Humane Society

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## Winter Weather Tips

Remember last winter, the bitter cold and record snowfalls? It is the time to prepare outside pets for the coming cold weather. It is recommended that all pets are brought indoors during the colder months, but even indoor dogs must spend some of their day outside. Here are some helpful hints to ensure your pet gets through the colder months healthy and safe.

Dogs kept outside should have at-will **access to a dry shelter**. A small, insulated doghouse is best. Bigger is NOT better! The house should be small enough to hold the animal's body heat which will keep them warm. It should be large enough for them to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably in. Place the doghouse in a location out of the wind and place it on a raised platform to keep it off the ground. There should also be an access door with a heavy flap or plastic to prevent drafts. A suitable bedding should be used inside such as hay, straw, or wood chips, to retain warmth. Blankets and quilts should not be used as bedding because they trap moisture and can cause your dog to become damp and chilly.

Since humidity is much lower in the winter your pet is very susceptible to dehydration. **Providing a constant water supply** is the best solution. Check water bowls at least twice a day to be sure the water is not frozen. Dark dishes will absorb heat from the sun and help prevent freezing. Using

plastic instead of metal is best. Dogs tongues may freeze and stick to a metal bowl. Outside dogs require a higher caloric intake during the colder months. This is because of the energy needed to keep warm. **More frequent feedings or increasing the amount of food** will help.

**Dogs and cats are susceptible to frostbite during the winter.** Typical areas are the tips of the ears, paws, tails and scrotum. Look for redness in these areas and if noticeable seek immediate veterinary care.

**Hypothermia is a life threatening condition** caused by the lowering of your pet's body temperature. The first reaction of your pet to a lower body temperature is to shiver which increases muscle activity and heat production. If your pet seems lethargic or unresponsive, seek emergency vet care.

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