

# Paw Inprint

A bi-annual publication of the Prince William SPCA

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## Our Goals

- Help reduce the number of homeless domestic animals through public education.
- Promote spaying/neutering to stop animal abuse and the deaths/killing of homeless and shelter animals.
- Facilitate the rescue and adoption of homeless domestic animals of pure or mixed breed lineage.
- Prevent cruelties of any form to any and all animals and to aid in the prosecution of such cruelties.

## About Us

The Prince William SPCA was established to benefit the animals of the greater Prince William County, Virginia area. This all-volunteer organization is dedicated to protecting domestic animals from cruelty, neglect, and abandonment, and stopping the unnecessary overpopulation of companion animals.

Our mission is accomplished through programs designed to 1.) reduce the number of dogs and cats being born, 2.) facilitate animal adoptions, and 3.) enrich the human-animal bond.

We encourage partnerships with the veterinary industry, the local business community, county government officials and other nonprofits that share in our mission. In working with these groups, we hope to make the greater Prince William region a better place for precious companion animals.

The PWSPCA does not have a shelter facility. If you are looking for an animal to adopt, contact the Prince William County Animal Shelter at 703.792.6465 or the Manassas Animal Adoption Center at 703.257.2420.



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## Open Your Home (and Heart) to an Older Pet

Each year, thousands of animals end up in our local shelters. Many of these animals are older pets that have been surrendered for any number of reasons. These wonderful animals are often overlooked by potential adopters seeking out that new kitten or puppy. The Prince William SPCA encourages everyone to rethink this decision and consider older animals instead. Here are some things to consider:

**Dogs:** Anyone who has ever raised a puppy knows that these little bundles of joy can be as labor intensive as a small child. If you've been searching for a canine companion, but are not sure you have the time, energy and patience it takes to properly train a puppy, you should consider an older dog instead. Training a puppy means starting at ground zero; an older dog will most likely be housebroken and may have had previous training. At the very least, an older dog will not have to be fed or taken outside as often as a younger one, and can be left alone for longer periods of time. The older the dog, the more independent they can be.

Older dogs often make great companions for older people, who don't have the stamina to keep up with a young, energetic dog. With an older dog you know what you're getting in terms of size, physical appearance, health and temperament. There is no way to know whether the tiny puppy you adopt today will be 90 pounds of hard-to-manage dog a year from now, or if she will shed constantly or fall victim to a genetic disease. An older dog has already gone through the destructive phases of adolescence and puppyhood, and will most likely be more focused and self-disciplined. But....can you teach an old dog new tricks? Sure. In fact, older dogs have a longer attention span, and often give more recognition to their trainers than puppies and young dogs do. With all the superb qualities possessed by older dogs, it is unfortunate that they are often overlooked. Before heading to the nearest puppy kennels in search of your next companion, take a moment to ponder the possibilities of an older dog. You may be surprised by what (and who) you find.

**Cats:** Kittens need much more attention and supervision than adult cats. If you work outside the home or are otherwise frequently away, you will find that an adult cat will adapt to your home much more comfortably than a kitten. The same is true for a home that already has other animals. While a resident dog can be a hazard for a small kitten, an adult cat will soon set boundaries and decide with the dog who belongs where, and when. This seems to be also true of homes with a resident feline. A kitten can be too playful and annoying for an older cat, whereas another adult, introduced slowly and patiently, will work out with the first cat a pecking order that suits both parties. Households with very young children are another poor choice for a kitten. Young children can sometimes be very rough with a kitten. Adult cats seem to be able to tolerate a certain amount of handling from kids yet are still able to leave when enough is enough. Finally, a three-year-old cat still has, in all probability, a good dozen years to share with you.



*Mimxy is a ten year old, domestic long hair, orange tabby and a wonderful companion!*

*continued on next page*

## Cowboy Rides Home



*Cowboy looking for a new home.*

It was a typical Sunday at the Prince William County Animal Shelter when a gray and white kitty caught a lucky break. PWSPCA volunteers were at the shelter taking photographs of adoptable cats for the Petfinder site when they noticed an adoption contract attached to the release papers of a cat named Tybalt.

Tybalt was a long way from home having been adopted the previous year from Saving Animals From Euthanasia (SAFE), an animal rescue group in Chester, Virginia. PWSPCA contacted the group to confirm if Tybalt was adopted from their organization and received an immediate reply: Tybalt, a.k.a. Cowboy, was indeed a SAFE cat and

the group was very interested in rescuing him – for the second time!

Cowboy's story serves as an important reminder on responsible pet ownership. If you are forced to give up your pet, it is important to contact the rescue group or shelter from which you adopted the animal. If you signed an adoption agreement, you may be contractually obligated to return the pet to the rescue group or shelter.

Rescue groups are very committed to placing animals in life-long homes. If an adoption is not successful, the animal rescue groups will help you place the animal in a new home rather than have it released back into the shelter system. In Cowboy's case, the SAFE volunteer traveled over two hours to re-claim him from an uncertain fate at the shelter.

Cowboy soon found himself back in the saddle when he attended a SAFE adoption fair the weekend after he was picked up from the Prince William County Animal Shelter. Cowboy received an adoption application at the fair and a few days later rode into his new home – and this time it's a "forever home"!

## Call For Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist in the efforts of the new Prince William SPCA. We are an all-volunteer group that relies on the time, dedication and efforts of our volunteers. Whether you want to volunteer several hours a week or just a few hours every month or two, positions are available in all areas and can be tailored to meet your schedule. Interested in volunteering? Send an e-mail to [volunteer@pwspca.org](mailto:volunteer@pwspca.org).

The PWSPCA Congratulates  
**Joan Strawderman**  
2005 Animal Control Officer of the Year  
(Awarded by the VA Animal Control Association)



*Open Your Home...continued from cover*

What's the best part about adopting an adult dog or cat? You are literally saving a life! Sadly, as animals age, their chances of getting adopted decrease and the majority of adult animals at shelters are euthanized.

For additional information on the two animal shelters in Prince William County, visit their websites on Petfinder.

City of Manassas Animal Adoption Center  
[www.manassasanimaladoptioncenter.petfinder.com](http://www.manassasanimaladoptioncenter.petfinder.com)

Prince William County Animal Shelter  
[www.pwcshester.petfinder.com](http://www.pwcshester.petfinder.com)

## A Special Thank You

The Prince William SPCA Would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their support!

Mr. Sydeny Duncan

Shannon Klakowicz

Dumfries Wal-mart

Mapleshade Animal Hospital

Cookbook Sponsors: Dale City Animal Hospital; Prince William County Animal Shelter; The Kitchen Garden Café, Restaurant and Bakery; Jennifer Tomb; and Waggin' Tails Junction

### Donation Recognitions...

In Honor of Casey Powell-Gammon by Victoria Gammon

In Honor of Ellie and Petie by Victoria Gammon

In Honor of Martha and Stewart by Nancy Phillips

In Memory of Susan Phillips by Glennette Papovich

In Memory of Blackie and Danish by Melissa Korzuch

In Memory of Bruno by Susan Birrell

In Memory of Theodore by Laurel Porterfield

In Memory of Timber by Jill Powell

## Lifelong Animal Lover Making a Difference in VA



Joan Strawderman

Joan Strawderman grew up in the Virginia countryside town of Broadway. Joan is a long-time resident of Prince William County, serving as Animal Control Officer for the City of Manassas for 24 years! After a couple of promotions, Joan earned the role of Chief Animal Control Officer, a position she has held for 12 years. She currently oversees a 3-person division in addition to managing the new Manassas Animal Shelter. Joan volunteers on the PWSPCA Board of Directors, bringing her expertise, hands-on perspective and valuable insight to board meetings.

Joan has always been interested in and caring for animals, so after high school, she obtained a

B.S. in Animal Science, from Virginia Tech and began looking for a job. Joan was married right after college and she moved to Northern Virginia, which did not offer a lot of jobs at that time – her choices were scarce and involved veterinary clinics, dairy farms and animal control.

Not knowing much about Animal Control, she was intrigued. She applied with the city and got the job. Joan recalls, "The law enforcement came into play when rabies hit the area in the early 1980's. I requested to carry a firearm to protect myself and the Chief of Police recommended that I attend the Police Academy". Since then, all Manassas City Animal Control Officers are certified in law enforcement.

Joan says the best part of her job is the "happy endings." And explains, "Whether it is an adoption, a case that has been successfully prosecuted, or helping someone with a wildlife problem and the animal is excluded not destroyed. I think what I like most is educating the people that want to be educated."

Understandably, the worst part of her job is "dealing with unreasonable people...and euthanasia."

When asked about the new Manassas Shelter, Joan is proud of the facility and excited about the programs that they have already implemented and the unending possibilities of programs to implement in the future.

When people find out what she does everyday, Joan says they usually make a statement such as, 'I could never do your job' or they tell her a story about their pet, their problem with a neighbor's dog or cat. But Joan recognizes that attitudes have changed over her 24-year tenure, and adds that previously most statements have been negative. "However, TV shows like Animal Planet and Animal Cop have been a very positive influence on the profession of Animal Control", explains Joan.

Life is not all work for Joan Strawderman, who describes herself as "positive, patient and faithful". She is the mother of two Eagle Scouts, Logan (age 20) and Jared (age 18) and many companion animals: 2 dogs (Smokey and Drake), 2 cats (Garth and Pudley), 1 ferret (Wayne), 3 fire belly newts, a tank full of fish and an 8 year old green iguana (Igggy)!!! Her favorite places are at home and at her church, where she sings in the Choir.

In addition to serving many animals and the community, Joan enjoys playing with her pets, embroidery, working in the yard, and being with her family.

Visit Joan at the new Manassas City Animal Adoption Center for a tour of the facilities and to meet the animals available for adoption. See the hours of operation for the Manassas City Animal Adoption Center on page 6 in this newsletter.

## 2006 Membership Campaign Underway

The Prince William SPCA is an all-volunteer, member run organization dedicated to the animals of the greater Prince William County region. Funds are needed to support our programs that promote spay/neutering, stop animal cruelty and support animal welfare in our region. You can help us reach our goals by becoming a member. Benefits include receiving copies of our newsletter, *Paw InPrint*, eligibility to serve on the PWSPCA Board of Directors, ability to vote at annual meetings and, coming soon, special membership discounts from local businesses. The cost for an annual membership is \$25 and is considered a tax-deductible donation. To become a member, please visit [www.pwspca.org](http://www.pwspca.org) and click on "Support Us".

## Help the PWSPCA through Workplace Giving

Are you a Federal employee? The Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area (CFCNCA) makes it easy for you to make charitable contributions through payroll deduction programs. If your workplace participates, you can contribute to the Prince William SPCA through the CFC. Simply complete the pledge card with the amount you would like to donate and designate the Prince William SPCA as the recipient (participant number #7422).

Visit our website @  
[www.pwspca.org](http://www.pwspca.org)

## Get Kids Involved

While most of our volunteer opportunities are for adults, there are many ways in which children can help the Prince William SPCA with fundraising projects and humane education programs.

Here are just a few examples of how kids can help:

- Encourage teachers to include lessons on humane education
- Post information and a donation can in local neighborhood or school
- Conduct bake sales or sell lemonade
- Organize yard sales, dog washes or a "penny drive" at school
- Have a Birthday party where kids bring gifts and/or money for the animals
- Help with "Animal Adoption Trees" (see information on page 7)

The Prince William SPCA can provide brochures, newsletters and other information you may need for any of the activities listed above.

Spay today...save a life tomorrow!

# Special Events

## Prince William SPCA Raises \$700 for the Animal Victims of Hurricane Katrina

On Wednesday, September 21, 2005, Manassas residents came out to show their support for Hurricane Katrina's 2- and 4-legged victims. Local restaurants served food & drinks with Louisiana music provided by The Grandsons & The Dixie Power Trio. The Prince William SPCA hosted a special booth during the event and raised \$700 for rescue efforts, medical assistance and basic care for companion animals in the hurricane-affected areas. All donations collected during this event were donated to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).



Left: PWSPCA raffles a basket of goodies to raise funds for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Below: Heather Fager, a PWSPCA volunteer, sells "fund-raising" apples at the Manassas Fall Jubilee.

## Annual Manassas Fall Jubilee



Jennifer Tomb helps set-up the PWSPCA booth at the 2005 Manassas Fall Jubilee.

On Saturday, October 1, 2005, the Prince William SPCA hosted a booth at the Historic Old Town Manassas' Annual Fall Jubilee. Thousands of area residents couldn't pass up the beautiful fall day and came in droves to the event, which was held in the streets of Old Town



For an up-to-date listing of the PWSPCA's upcoming special events visit:

[www.pwspca.org](http://www.pwspca.org)

Manassas. The festival featured over 80 juried fine art and craft booths, plus live music, puppet shows, dancers, demonstrations and entertainment for the entire family! The new *Taste of Prince William County* cookbooks were a huge hit in addition to the "Pet Emergency Preparedness Basket" raffle. Prince William SPCA Board member Dr. Moore donated profits of his locally grown apples to the booth and helped contribute to an overall fundraising total of \$750! This event proved to be a fantastic fundraising opportunity but also a wonderful way to educate the public on spay/neutering, humane education and the importance of adopting pets from local shelters. Thanks to all who supported the PWSPCA and the volunteers who took time out of their day to set up and run the booth.

## Dog Days of Summer Event Lived Up to Its Name

The heat was on for the first annual Dog Days of Summer Event held on Saturday, August 20, 2005. The event was sponsored by the Belmont Bay Science Center, located on the water where the Occoquan and Potomac Rivers meet. Humans and dogs alike braved the 95 degree heat to take part in the run/walk with your dog, compete in special contests, and visit various booths selling animal related items. The Prince William SPCA hosted a bake sale and passed out information on the organization.



Murphy chills out at Dog Days of Summer.



PWSPCA cookbooks, available for the first time at the October 1, Manassas Fall Jubilee.

## Sam Newsome: From Detective to Director of Animal Control



Sam Newsome, Director of Animal Control

We took a few minutes to find out more about Sam Newsome, who in addition to serving as Director of Animal Control, serves on the PWSPCA Board of Directors.

Growing up in southeast Georgia, Sam Newsome served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps before becoming a Law Enforcement officer in the Prince William County Police Department. Eventually, he earned the role of detective, working very demanding homicide and crimes against children units, and then to cold case homicide for 3 years.

In 2002, Sam was moved to the National Sniper Task Force (NSTF), a multi-jurisdictional initiative

preparing for the Beltway Sniper trial. It was during his long hours of the NSTF that Sam first read an email announcing the vacancy for the Animal Control position. Sam deleted the email, and recalls telling a fellow officer, "that would be a good job for somebody". However, fate had a different idea, and driving home from Dulles Airport after an exhausting and intense trip collecting evidence in Baton Rouge, the position popped into his head. In that minute, Sam suddenly realized it was a great opportunity to take the lead and positively impact the overall PWCPD and community.

In July 2003, Master Detective Newsome became Director of Animal Control, which includes oversight and management of the PW County Shelter and animal control in the County.

Once he assumed his position, Sam was struck by the Shelter's poor reputation. He immediately began making strides to change the reputation that animal control officers are "dog catchers" running around with nets, and that the Shelter enjoys taking people's animals away. That couldn't be more wrong in Sam's eyes, who insists that his staff work very hard and are good people that do a difficult job. To Sam, "That [perception] is unacceptable and not representative of the people that work [at the Shelter]."

In just over 2 years, the Shelter has developed relationships with area rescue organizations and non-profit animal welfare groups like the PWSPCA.

A children's educational non-profit farm has been incorporated. Additionally, Sam believes that public perception begins inside the Shelter so he fosters an environment where the staff enjoy working and are treated with respect.

Sam insists that the Shelter does everything possible to stop euthanizing adoptable animals. And continues that "Our number one goal is to make a positive impact for the animal, staff and the community". Sam is proud of what has been accomplished, recognizes they still have a long way to go. Ever optimistic, he is leading his staff and the community by continuing to implement positive changes and change public perception "one person at a time."

According to Sam, when people find out who he is, they usually say "I don't know how you can do that job". But that's nothing new to Sam Newsome, who has heard it all. He gets through the demanding and sometimes disappointing days, by applying lessons learned as a detective. In his own words, "you care enough and consider the job you do so important that you are able to lay your own personal feelings aside...and know you are doing the best thing in the end."

Sam's favorite place is at his home, with his 9 children, ages 24 - 7. Sam describes himself as "eternally optimistic and compassionate" and added that he is "...not under the illusion that [he has] all the answers". It seems like the recipe for success for this career detective who is changing the face of the PWC Shelter.

Adopt your next pet from an animal shelter – visit the Prince William County Animal Shelter during the hours of operation listed on page 6.

## Hot Off the Presses: PWSPCA Cookbooks

*Taste of Prince William County* is a wonderful new cookbook from the Prince William SPCA. The cookbook contains 350 recipes from area residents as well as from supporters throughout the country. There are 9 categories of recipes including: Appetizers and Beverages; Soups and Salads; Vegetables and Side Dishes, Main Dishes; Breads and Rolls; Desserts; Cookies and Candy; This and That; and a special section, Just for Pets. The cookbook includes recipes that are super easy and those that are perfect for the gourmet.

Some are low-fat and some are high-calorie diet-crashers. Here is just a small sampling of the recipes included in the cookbook: Mexican Wontons, Raspberry Martinis, Crabmeat Pasta Salad, Fiesta Chili, Town Meeting Stew, Sweet and Sour Potatoes, Crawfish Etouffee, Easy Turkey or Chicken Enchiladas, Kung Pao Lobster, Veggie and Tofu Lasagna, Cherry Cheese Danish, Coconut Cupcakes with Cream Cheese Frosting, English Toffee, Scotcheroos, Doggie Doughnuts, Fresh Breath Bites...and so many more!

Each cookbook is \$12, plus \$3 for shipping. The funds raised from the sale of these cookbooks will support spay/neuter

and other programs sponsored by the Prince William SPCA. To order your cookbooks, please visit our web site [www.pwspca.org](http://www.pwspca.org) and click on the cookbook link. They make a wonderful gift!



## Ask the Veterinarian

Question: What are microchips and do you recommend them?

### Answer:

Microchips are small (rice sized) transmitters which are placed under the skin with a large hypodermic needle. They are usually placed over the shoulder area. When the appropriate scanner passes over the area the manufacturer and ID number appears with an audible beep. An 800 number can be called and the ID number entered into the microchip database. This enables the owner to be located and the pet to be returned. The chips are inexpensive, invisible, and reliable. There are a few complications. One of which is the migration of the newer chips. The Prince William County Animal Shelter recently began to microchip all the animals it adopts out.

Every two seconds a family pet is lost.\* Most are never found. Melbourne, Australia requires microchips to be implanted in all licensed dogs and, in contrast, reunites 85% of lost dogs.

I do recommend microchips, tags, and/or tattoos to help save your pets. Microchips can be implanted in dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and horses. Contact your veterinarian to get more information.

\*From the AVID brochure

## Adopt A Shelter Pet

Look no farther than your local animal shelter to find your next feline friend or canine companion. Each year millions of homeless animals find their way into animal shelters across America. Residents of Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park are served by two area shelters, the Prince William County Animal Shelter and the Manassas City Animal Adoption Center.

If you are thinking about adopting a companion animal, visit the local animal shelters or find your new pet on-line! The Prince William County Animal Shelter and the Manassas City Animal Adoption Center place homeless animals on the Petfinder website, an on-line database where you can search for adoptable pets. When you adopt an animal from the shelter, you not only gain a loyal friend but you also save a life!

### Prince William County Animal Shelter

14807 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112  
Phone: 703.792.6465 • Email: [animalshelter@pwcgov.org](mailto:animalshelter@pwcgov.org)  
Petfinder Website: [www.pwcshelter.petfinder.com](http://www.pwcshelter.petfinder.com)

The Prince William County Animal Shelter is located on Dumfries Road (Rt. 234), adjacent to the Prince William County Landfill.

#### Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00am-4:00pm  
Thursday: 10:00am-8:00pm  
Saturday: 9:00am-3:00pm  
Sunday, Monday and Holidays: Closed

### Manassas City Animal Adoption Center

10039 Dean Drive, Manassas, VA 20110  
Phone: 703.257.2420 • Email: [animalshelter@ci.manassas.va.us](mailto:animalshelter@ci.manassas.va.us)  
Petfinder Website: [www.manassasanimaladoptioncenter.petfinder.com](http://www.manassasanimaladoptioncenter.petfinder.com)

The Manassas City Animal Adoption Center is located at 10039 Dean Dr. in Manassas, VA. From Route 28 (Nokesville Road) turn eastbound onto Wellington Road. Make the first right onto Dean Drive. The Manassas City Animal Adoption Center is the second building on the right.

#### Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10:00am-1:00pm AND 4:00pm-6:00pm  
Wednesday: 5:00pm-7:00pm  
Saturday: 10:00am-1:00pm  
Sundays and Holidays: Closed

Meet a few of the purebreds that came through the Prince William County Animal Shelter this past year...



Dolly — Dachshund



Teagan — Siamese



Jesse — Husky



Roxxy — Maine Coon



Wolfie — Persian



King — German Shepherd

## Did You Know?

- An estimated 5 million cats and dogs are euthanized in U.S. shelters each year – 71% of cats and 56% of dogs never make it out of the shelter system. The Prince William County Animal Shelter received over 7,500 cats and dogs in 2004. Over 3,700 of these cats and dogs had to be euthanized because the animals were not adopted. Save a life and adopt your next pet from a shelter!
- Virginia state laws allow for immediate euthanasia of animals released to shelters by their owners. Animals wearing collars are held for 10 days before they may be euthanized while animals with no collars are held for only 5 days before they may be euthanized. These policies do not give shelter animals much time to find homes. Microchip your pets!
- Two unaltered cats and all their offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats in just seven years. Two unaltered dogs and all their offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs in just six years. Stop the over-population problem in Prince William County – spay and neuter your pets!
- Shelter pets listed on Petfinder are available for one-month of FREE pet insurance through a special offer from ShelterCare. Remember to pick-up an information flyer from the shelter when adopting your pet for instructions on activating your free month of pet insurance.
- Approximately 25% of animals available for adoption through shelters are purebreds. Don't pay hundreds or thousands of dollars to a breeder when the perfect companion animal is waiting for you at the local shelter.
- The life expectancy of a dog is between 12-15 years and the life expectancy of a cat is between 14-18 years. Adopting a pet is a life-long commitment!

## Litterbox Issues

The leading cause of cat abandonment is when cats do not use the litter box. Many people drop them off at shelters, give them away, kick them outside or take them to their vets to be euthanized. The best defense is to make sure it doesn't happen in the first place.

There are two types of inappropriate elimination, one is spraying and the other is simply urinating or defecating somewhere other than the litter box. Spraying is when a cat backs up to an object, such as a wall and sprays urine while shaking its tail. Inappropriate urination is when a cat urinates downward onto anything that isn't in the litter box. **Males and females can both spray and seem to be equally affected by the inappropriate urination syndrome.**

When it comes to inappropriate elimination there can be several causes. It can be medical, such as urinary tract infections, stones, etc. So if you and your cat are affected, the first step is going to your vet with a urine sample. If it isn't medical, the source could be stress. Many cats are easily stressed, although it may be almost imperceptible to their humans. Any household change, such as a new baby, house guest, construction, addition of a new pet, moving the box or other changes can be the cause. Your vet may prescribe some medication to help your cat with stress. Some cats have a surface preference and prefer a certain type of litter or, unfortunately, the bathroom mat, clothes or even the couch to name a few. These are the most difficult to correct.

If you can figure out the cause of your cat's stress, you have a much better chance of solving the problem. Perhaps your cat does not like the location of the litter box. You should have at least one box per cat and at least one box on each floor of your home.

Some cats would rather use covered boxes, some do not. Some prefer clay litter, some wheat litter and so on.

There are several solutions that may work for your cat. Perhaps adding another litter box in a different location, trying different types of litter by putting out a few different boxes with different types of litter in each to see which your cat prefers may do the trick. Some cats really like using peat moss or mulch. Some cats will only have "accidents" on certain items such as bathroom rugs, so eliminating the problem may be as easy as picking up those rugs. If Fido won't allow kitty to go up the stairs to the box, there could be a problem. If that new kitten thinks it is fun to bug your elderly cat in the box, your elderly cat may not be inclined to go there anymore. Litter box location is very important. Perhaps your kitty's favorite place is upstairs on your bed, is your litter box two floors below in the basement? It will take some experimentation to find out what works for you and your cat.

Sometimes inappropriate urination is behavioral and can be learned from other cats. This is extremely difficult to correct. Far better to eliminate the potential than to fix it after it starts. So make sure there are plenty of clean litter boxes located in quiet, easy access areas available for your cat at all times. **Getting your pet spayed or neutered before their first heat cycle (which can be as early as six months) is critical to decrease the chance of spraying and inappropriate urination.** Take care when considering adding a new pet to your household and seek advice from your vet on proper introduction methods. The more pets you add to your home, the greater the chances for this behavior to develop.

Remember, an ounce of prevention sure beats a pound of cure.

## Your Food Lion \$ Can Help the PWSPCA

Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to the Prince William SPCA. To link your card, please go to [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com) and click on "Fundraising". Under the city of Woodbridge, select "Prince William SPCA" as your organization.

It is free, easy and, best of all, helps support the efforts of the Prince William SPCA!



## Attention... Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H Members, Senior Groups, Paper Crafters, Woodworkers and Animal Lovers

The Prince William SPCA needs your help with two projects. Each year, hundreds of animals enter our local shelters in need of new homes. Unfortunately, many people in the community do not know that these animals are there. You can help us to help these animals find homes by assisting us with two special projects detailed below. The "Pet Adoption Trees" will spread the word about the animals and the "Donation Cans" will help fund the projects. Both projects can be done as a scout, class or group project or by individuals (see notes about ages).

### Adoption Trees

During the holiday season, the Prince William SPCA sponsors "Pet Adoption Trees" around the community. These Christmas trees have ornaments made of paper with a color photo of a pet that is available from the Prince William County or Manassas City Animal Shelters. Help is needed to make ornaments, decorate trees, update trees with new animals and remove the trees after the holiday season is over. The Prince William SPCA will supply all the funds and coordination needed for this project. If you have missed the holiday season, please note we can use your help year 'round making ornaments in preparation for the next season. *This project can be done as a group project or by individuals age 8 (certain parts) and up.*

### Donation "Can" Project

The Prince William SPCA needs donation "cans" to place at area businesses. We would like the cans to be the size of a bird house, made of wood, painted to look like a dog house and containing a hinged trap door (that can be secured with a small lock). The PWSPCA will provide the funds needed for the plans, wood, kits (if available), paint, and all supplies. *This project can be done as a group project or by individuals age 12 and up. As a special thank you for your help with this project, all donation "cans" will be entered in a contest and the winner will be highlighted in the Prince William SPCA's newsletter, "Paw InPrint".*

If you can help, please contact the Prince William SPCA at: Prince William SPCA, PO Box 6631, Woodbridge, VA 22195, [pwspca@pwspca.org](mailto:pwspca@pwspca.org), 571.222.0033 (phone/fax).

# Three Steps for Greeting an Unfamiliar Dog – Instructions for Parents

It's very important to teach kids how to interact with dogs they are interested in. Childish excitement could be interpreted as a threat by inexperienced dogs.

## 1. Ask the Owner.

Teach your kids never to rush up toward a dog. Tell them to stop about 5 feet away and ask the owner, "May I pet your dog?" Sometimes the answer will be no. Many dogs don't live with kids and are not comfortable with them. So if the dog's owner says no, that's okay. Remind your kids that there are lots of other dogs who would love to be petted by them.

If the owner says yes, then the children must ask the dog.

## 2. Ask the Dog - Do Not Skip This Step!

Tell kids that dogs don't use words but instead rely on body language. Pantomime various emotions such as anger, fear, and excitement to show the kids that they use

body language too.

Have your children make a fist with the palm pointed down. Then they can slowly extend their arm for the dog to sniff their hand. Teaching the kids to curl their fingers in minimizes the risk of a dog nipping their finger.

When the dog is being given the opportunity to sniff, watch his body language.

- Does he come forward with loose, waggly motions? That's definitely a yes.
- Does he lean forward for a quick sniff and seem comfortable? Also a yes.
- Does he turn his face away from your child's hand? Back away? Bark? Move behind the owner? Look anxious and unsettled? Growl? These are all no's. Unfortunately some owners don't understand or respect their dog's decision and will drag the dog forward saying, "Oh, he's fine. He loves kids. You can pet him." Do not ever allow your children to pet a dog that does not approach them willingly.

## 3. Petting the Dog.

If the owner said yes and the dog said yes, the kids can pet the dog. Tell your kids that they need to be careful of a dog's sensitive eyes and ears. Most dogs don't like to be petted on top of their heads, but nearly all people pet dogs this way—it's a hardwired human behavior. There is a blind spot on top of a dog's head. If he sees your child's hand moving toward that area, the natural inclination is for him to tilt his head up and watch where the hand is going. Now your child's hand is reaching right over the dog's teeth—not a very good place for that hand to be.

Suggest that your children stroke the side of the dog's neck, rub under his chin, scratch his chest, or pet along his back. Most dogs prefer slow, gentle strokes to rapid pat-pat-patting.

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*Colleen Pelar, CPDT, is the author of Living with Kids and Dogs...Without Losing Your Mind. For additional information about safe interactions between kids and dogs, please visit [www.LIVINGwithKIDSandDOGS.com](http://www.LIVINGwithKIDSandDOGS.com).*

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