

## Winter 2009

*Helping Animals*

*Helping People*

*Helping the  
Community*

*For over 100 Years  
1907-2009*

### Hours:

Monday-Friday 10am-5pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm

115 Featherbed Lane  
Winchester, VA 22601

**540.662.8616**

[www.winchesterspca.org](http://www.winchesterspca.org)  
[spca@winchesterspca.org](mailto:spca@winchesterspca.org)

**SPCA - Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Animals**

Serving the City of Winchester,  
Frederick & Clarke Counties

## The Thrift Store Has Moved to a New Location



The Winchester S.P.C.A. Thrift Shop has moved to a new location, at 2225 Valley Ave. This is in the same strip mall where Papa John's Pizza and Payless Shoes are. It is the old Motion Video store. Our new shop is even better than it was at the old location. There is a large sales floor with many wonderful donated items available. The thrift shop accepts the same items, good quality clothing, shoes, jewelry, housewares, small appliances, books, movies, music, linens and gently used

furniture. We are unable to accept large appliances, mattresses and box springs, exercise and sporting goods, toys, computer/fax equipment, infant car seats, encyclopedias or anything torn, dirty or inoperable.

If you would like to see pictures of the new store just go to [www.winchesterspca.org](http://www.winchesterspca.org) and click on SPCA Thrift Store. The

hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 A.M. To 6 P.M. We are closed Sunday and Monday. The phone is also the same, 540-450-2710. There are also great opportunities to volunteer at the shop. If you would like to help out just give Kate, the store manager, a call and she can set you up.

Come on down to the new thrift store and browse through all we have. Hurry because things are going fast!! New merchandise is displayed every-day!!

## *Diva Night is Coming Again*

It is almost Diva time again. In the past there have been concerns about having the Diva Night in February because of possible weather problems. The board decided to hold this year's Diva Night on Saturday, April 4, 2009 starting at 8:00 P.M. It will be at the same location as in past years, the Winchester Old Town Event Center at 403 S. Loudoun St. Tickets, which

should be ready for purchasing sometime around February, will be \$30 a person. This year there will be a new twist to the program. As always there will be drinks, a silent auction, cake and lots of crazy fun. H.C. Sounds will be providing the music. So mark your calendars for April 4th and get ready to have a good time.

## A Message From the Board

By Libby Ingham

I offered to write for the newsletter because I recently attended the No More Homeless Pets National Conference sponsored by the Best Friends Animal Society, and figured that it would be easy to choose and write on any topic. As I sift through the many notes that I have, it occurs to me that there are so many things to be passionate about that choosing just one is a more difficult task than I had anticipated.

During the three day conference I gathered information on every subject you could imagine. I picked up fliers, bumper stickers, a book, business cards and a couple of t-shirts. I took down so many notes that my hand cramped and I'm still trying to decipher some of my own scribbles. There were representatives, members and staff from some of the largest most prestigious animal shelters/rescue groups from around the country and abroad. There were also groups that were just beginning. Every single one

of those organizations exists because they want to help and they all have their own ideas on how it should be done. Even so, the similarities far outweigh differences, and it was comforting to know that they all struggle with the same issues as the SPCA of Winchester, Frederick and Clarke Counties.

Every animal shelter/rescue group struggles with finding good homes for the animals passing through our doors. We struggle with not ever really having enough—not enough space, volunteers, time, donations or support. We struggle with how the negative public perception of our organization and how it functions. So often one negative idea is passed around until it becomes "fact," and few check to find out the truth. And please don't forget there is an ongoing and extremely difficult battle against ignorance, neglect and abuse. Help from you makes it possible to continue fighting these uphill battles and there

are so many ways you can help. Of course the obvious ways to help are to volunteer your time, services or talents, to donate goods to the shelter or thrift shop or to contribute monetarily. But there are other ways too. Make sure you spay and neuter your own animals, register them and encourage everyone else to do the same. Tell them about the Spay Virginia, low cost spay/neuter program, at the SPCA. If someone you know is looking for pet, encourage them to visit a shelter first, and not just ours, but all of them. DO NOT buy a puppy from a "puppy store," as a matter of fact—don't buy anything at that store! If your friends, colleagues, neighbors or relatives aren't currently members, get them signed up. Educating yourself and passing on that information is one of the best things that you can do. If you aren't sure how to go about doing any of this—call us, we're here to help you too.

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## Other Events We Have Had This Last Quarter



This last quarter has been a busy one for the SPCA. In November the shelter participated in the semi-annual Belk Charity Days fund raiser. On December 11th we hosted the play "Its a Wonderful Life" at the Winchester Little Theater. All the money raised went to help the SPCA. It was a great night despite the rain. We had treats for everyone during intermission and picked the winner of the raffle for the \$500 pearl necklace that was donated by PearlParadise.com. Everyone enjoyed the fine performance put on by the Little Theater actors.

On December 12th and 13th we had a Christmas open house at the shelter. We had a bake sale, raffles and pictures with Santa. Several children and pets came to see Saint Nick. We took close to 90 pictures and adopted out 7 pets over the two day period.

We also had "Pictures With Santa" at PetSmart on December 6th. This is something PetSmart does every year with the local shelters. Many people came to have their pets picture taken. The money raised for that day goes to the Winchester SPCA. We would like to thank everyone who came out to support these events.

# 3RD ANNUAL FIRST BANK PAW FEST



September 27th was the date of the third annual First Bank Paw Fest and it was well attended despite the weather. In the morning hours the sky was overcast with light rain. It looked like it could be a washout. By 10 A.M. when Paw Fest started the rain had stopped and soon after that the sun started to shine. Everything went as planned. We had raffles, games for the kids and pet contests. The O.H. S.N.A.P. car was a big success. Many people took the opportunity to smash the car and help raise funds to spay/neuter animals at the same time. The food and music was great and there was a lot to see. The day before, Chris and Rosie from Q102, promoted the Paw Fest on their show and then went out in front of McDonald's on Pleasant Valley, with a dog & cat mask on, collecting money. We are always grateful for their support. We would like to thank the following sponsors for their support as well: First Bank, Invisible Fence, H.C. Sounds, Winchester Pet Pals, The Pawfect Ride, Licks & Splits Ice Cream on Wheels, Family Dollar, Aussie Mobile Pet Groomer, Dominion Document Shredding and The Picture People. We would also like to thank the Winchester Police K9 unit, the volunteers, board members and staff who worked so hard to make the day a success. If you would like to see pictures of the event just go to [www.winchesterspca.org](http://www.winchesterspca.org).

## We Always Need These Items

We have printed up a list of items that we need on a daily basis. They include: cat litter, dry or canned cat or kitten food, dry or canned dog or puppy food, Pine Sol, liquid dish detergent, laundry detergent, bleach, any other cleaning supplies, blankets, towels, sheets, cat toys, dog toys, rawhides, and dog treats. If you have the opportunity to pick up some of these items we could always use them. Rather than throw out those old blankets, towels or sheets, bring them to the shelter. They make great beds for the animals.

## Time to Prepare your Pet for the Winter

As the cold weather comes upon us it seems like a good time to review some important tips to help "Winterize Your Pet."

First, whenever possible keep your pet inside. This is especially true with smaller and short haired pets. An outside dog needs a dry, elevated house with clean dry bedding and a flap over the door to keep the wind out. You might think about adding a dog door to the garage and put a soft bed in the warmest area. Always check the outside water bowls to make sure they have not frozen. Outside dogs need more calories to produce body heat. So give them a little more to eat. On the other hand if your pet is spending more time inside and not getting as much exercise as usual then cut back a little on the calories so they do not gain weight. Chemicals that are used to remove ice and snow can irritate an animals paws. Make sure you wipe their feet down after an outing. Although antifreeze tastes good to pets it is a deadly poison. Make sure it is cleaned up off the garage floor immediately. Last of all remember that cats like to crawl up inside a car engine to seek shelter or warmth. Make sure, before you start the car, that you open the hood or pound on it loudly to scare out a sleeping cat. Follow these few steps and we can have a safe, happy winter.

# IN MEMORY OF ABIGAL LEE: April, 2004 – October 24, 2008

ABIGAL LEE, 4, of Frederick County beloved feline companion of Bunny and Clark Jackson, died quietly and peacefully in her sleep Friday, October 24, 2008.

Abi was born in early spring of 2004, and became a ward of the SPCA shortly thereafter. Very early in her young life it became apparent she would be a special needs kitty and awaited the arrival of owners that would care for her and nurture her for the rest of her short life. She was adopted with much fanfare by Bunny and Clark, who knew almost immediately that Abi was a companion each had hoped and prayed for. Abi's special needs were diagnosed and attended to immediately upon adoption by Dr. K. Walls of the

Winchester Animal Hospital. It was clear that she would remain a special needs kitty and Bunny and Clark lovingly committed themselves to the constant care for Abi's lifetime. Abi remained faithful to her adoptive parents and submitted completely to their gentle handling, care and total commitment to her well being.

Abi is survived by her adoptive parents, her feline siblings Phoebe Jane, Gracie Lu, Cooper Elliott, Beauregard Luwellen, and Colonel John, and by her canine siblings Abner Aloysius, Robert (Bob) Taylor and Walter Dyer.

Abi loved romping with her BFF sister Gracie Lu and enjoyed being singled out as the favorite of Bunny and Clark. She attended her regular doc-

tor appointments without complaint and loved the royal treatment she was given by Dr. Walls and his entire staff. Abi had made many friends including human and animal and all are deeply saddened by her passing. She is greatly missed.

A private memorial service for Abi at the family farmette in mid-November was attended by family members, with remembrances of Abi's life and testimony to the love she had for all family members and the love that was returned to her.

Those that would like to honor the memory of Abi, or the memory of a beloved companion of their own and the total commitment they give to their humans, please make a donation to the Winchester SPCA.

## The Current SPCA Staff

William Wood – Executive Director  
Margo Bach – Office Manager  
Ken Fisher – Kennel Manager  
Della Shepherd – Office Assistant  
Karen Carnahan – Kennel Attendant  
Rebekah Abrell – Kennel Attendant  
Angel Parker – Kennel Attendant  
Devon Gossage – Kennel Attendant

## The Current Board of Directors

Robert Bonometti - President  
Bunny Jackson – Vice President  
Jennifer Green – Secretary  
Lynn Unger – Treasurer  
Lisa Bridgforth, Robin Casey, Marsha Genthner, Libby Ingham, Lenny Willholland, Dale Nichols, Bill Peterson, Karen Schmitt, Steve Shafran, Dave Sobczynski, Margie Sobczynski, John Trueblood completes the current board.

115 Featherbed Lane  
Winchester, VA 22601

WINCHESTER  
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SPCA



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