



Paw Prints

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The Delaware Office of Animal Welfare Newsletter

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ADOPTION SPOTLIGHT



Meet Gabriel

He is a 5-year-old mixed breed who knows sit, down, speak, and shake. He loves other dogs and children.

Meet him at BVSPCA in New Castle. Learn more about Gabriel at: bvspca.org.

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One Health clinic provides one-stop health care for people, pets in Southbridge

On the first Saturday of each month, dozens of pet owners enter the day-long One Health Clinic at Henrietta Johnson Medical Center (HJMC) in Wilmington and walk out with high hopes for health. The Delaware Humane Association's (DHA) Dr. Kristin Jankowski, a veterinarian who dreamed up this clinic to provide health screenings, wellness exams, and vaccinations to the people and pets of Wilmington's Southbridge community. The monthly clinic provides low-income residents and their pets a one-stop-shop for free basic, veterinarian services.



Photo Courtesy: Delaware Humane Association

"When a pet is sick or injured, that is very stressful, but it would be devastating not to be able to provide any help for that pet. That made me think of the families living in the vicinity of DHA that might not have access to health care for themselves, their children, or pets," Dr. Jankowski said.

The clinic launched in October 2017 with start-up funding from a Pets in Poverty grant, and today is able to continue their work thanks to additional grants. Most of the staff from the clinics are volunteer positions; about 35 volunteers including nurses, veterinary technicians,

and veterinarians staff the monthly clinic. Many of the volunteers are students studying at area universities in the nursing or per-veterinary medicine fields.

Volunteers and paid staff alike feel that being able to provide health care for people and their pets is rewarding for all involved, especially when it is desperately needed, like when a 14-year-old German Shepard received crucial veterinary care for the first time in its life. "She had a terrible skin problem in addition to other health issues. We were able to make her much more comfortable and helped clear the skin condition," said Dr. Jankowski. "When I saw her for a re-check one month later, she was a much happier dog and the family was thrilled to have been able to get help."

Dr. Jankowski modeled the clinic off a similar program at the University of California Davis School, then helped open another clinic in Sacramento. Washington State University recently started its own similar clinic. Like many in the animal welfare field, Dr. Jankowski knows providing free, basic veterinary care to those who need it most has a positive effect on both people and their beloved animals.

"The human-animal bond provides so many positive benefits, especially for those who have little else that is reliable or steady in their lives," she said. "If I were ever down on my luck, the last thing I would want to do is give up my animals."



Emergency Animal Shelter Training

November 2-3, 2019 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Dover, DE

FREE training for DAR volunteers

Lunch provided both days

Includes: 11 continuing education hours for veterinarians and veterinary technicians with a DE license.

Sign-up and more info: DAR@delaware.gov or 302-242-3594



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Office of Animal Welfare

Office of Animal Welfare welcomes new deputy director

The Office of Animal Welfare (OAW) is excited to welcome Joanna Miller, LVT, as its new deputy director. Jo was hired in May 2019 to fill the vacancy of former deputy director, Christina Motoyoshi, who was promoted to executive director.

Jo is no stranger to the animal welfare field. She is a licensed veterinary technician (LVT) with more than 20 years of experience. During this time, Jo worked in and managed veterinary practices, was an adjunct instructor for the Delaware Technical Community College veterinary technology program, and served on the Delaware Board of Veterinary Medicine. Joanna spent many years working in the Delaware SPCA's high volume spay and neuter clinic, and most recently served as Director of Operations at Brandywine Valley SPCA.



Joanna Miller, LVT

With experience in animal control and sheltering operations, veterinary medicine, and as an advocate for spay/neuter, Jo is a great compliment to the OAW staff.

Beagle loses leg to gunshot, gains new family



Ashlee Fisher, LVT, a BVSPCA Veterinary Tech, snuggles Marty while he receives treatment in New Castle. (Photo Courtesy: BVSPCA)

Marty the Beagle is enjoying his brand new life full of love, thanks to the expertise of a Delaware Animal Services (DAS) officer and the veterinary staff at Brandywine Valley SPCA's New Castle Clinic.

DAS Officer Brandon Dodd responded to BVSPCA's Georgetown shelter in July, after a report of a injured stray dog that was found in Lincoln. Upon arrival, Officer Dodd, an avid hunter and former police officer, noticed the wound resembled a gunshot. After first aid was administered by BVSPCA staff, Marty was transferred to Savannah Animal Hospital for emergency care where it was confirmed by a radiograph that he had a shattered femur.

"He is very lucky to be alive because of the severity of his injuries," said BVSPCA Medical Director Dr. Wood, who performed the life-saving surgery on Marty. While Marty lost his leg to amputation, he gained a great life in its place when he was adopted.

Introducing the OAW's beloved, spoiled cat: Skip

I've always been a pretty cool cat, but let me tell you how I came to be the luckiest cat in Delaware.

I heard rumors for weeks that other cats around our territory had been tricked into wire prisons and taken by humans into a scary building, and then released back to campus after a long nap they did not remember taking. I vowed that these humans would not trick me with their traps, but I love the food they give me a little too much. So, there I was one day waking up in my sector of the territory from my own nap I didn't remember taking, without what makes me a man! And, part of my left ear was missing! But I started to notice I no longer felt the need to prowl around female mates. I just lost interest, which is fine because that meant I had more time to nap.

Then the humans put out food for me, spoke nicely and even crouched down to my level. I vowed never to meow or rub against their legs, but they were giving me food and love a snuggle. And, they wanted me to nap more, and I wanted to nap more, so what harm could they really do? Soon I was sleeping inside the little house in my sector, on couches, chairs, and with a steady supply of food and affection. It's been four years now and it just keeps getting better. Some of my humans are here everyday! They feed me. They pet me. And there are so many of them to love me, every single day!

Besides running the office, my main role here is rodent control, at which I think I do a fine job. I leave them evidence so they can see how well I protect them.

And now, they asked me to help them spread the word about how to best care for stray cats, or as they call us free-roaming or community cats. Keep an eye out for "Skip's Tips" in my next article. Meow for now!



Office of Animal Welfare's mascot, Skip, is the boss of the Stockley Office. (Photo Courtesy: Jo Miller)