

Greetings from the President

Dear Friends,

We are immensely grateful and humbled by the generosity of our community. Your support impacts the wellness of nearly every stray, surrendered or seized pet at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. In one year alone, donations provided life-saving and life-improving medical care to more than 100 dogs and cats. Nearly 30 dogs and cats received overdue dental cleanings and extractions, alleviating pain and promoting adoption. More than 2,300 dogs, cats and rabbits were provided with parasite prevention treatments, lending to a healthier Shelter and a healthier community. In the past year alone, 1,392 community stewards offering gifts of all sizes, improved the lives of nearly 5,000 shelter pets.



Throughout the past year, we have been touched to witness the compassion given to pets that are between homes. We are inspired by the number of people who choose to care for shelter pets as if they were family. It is the collective of volunteers, donors and animal welfare professionals that make our work possible.

As we enter this season of giving, please consider a gift to Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. You can be assured that your donation will make an impact in the lives of pets right here in your community. Together, we are better.

On behalf of my board colleagues and Friends staff, I wish you a festive holiday season and a happy new year,

Evelyn C. Grieve, President and Co-Founder

At Least 70 ½? EBW, LLC Has Good News!

After the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, many people are asking us if there is still a way to save on their taxes? There is good news for those who are charitably inclined and are 70 ½ or older. It's called the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

The IRS mandates that an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) be taken from an IRA for account owners aged 70 ½ and up. By making a QCD, an IRA owner can avoid paying taxes on the mandatory distribution, and the full amount will go to the charity of their choice.

- The charity benefits by receiving the higher, pre-taxed amount.
- The IRA owner benefits by having a lower reportable taxable income.

A taxpayer can donate through a QCD and still claim the standard deduction. Furthermore, because a QCD of up to \$100,000 per IRA owner is allowed, a couple filing jointly can potentially claim QCDs totaling up to \$200,000. Because this strategy reduces adjusted gross income, it could reduce Medicare premiums and the amount of taxes owed from Social Security payments.

As you consider making a Qualified Charitable Contribution, keep these key points in mind: the QCD must be paid directly to the charity from the IRA; the taxpayer must be at least 70 ½; and the charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization and not a private foundation.

Under the new tax code, it is estimated 90% of filers will now take the new standard deduction. The QCD strategy is the most useful to this group of taxpayers. To find out if making a QCD is right for you, consult your tax advisor and financial planner.

If you don't have a financial advisor, I'd be more than happy to answer any further questions you have.

Justin R. Ivey, Financial Advisor, 703-506-0030, JIVEY@ebwllc.com

Neither Voya Financial Advisors nor its representatives offer tax or legal advice. Please consult with your tax and legal advisors regarding your individual situation.

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Maizy Navigates Like a Pro

By the time this little warrior made it to the Shelter, Maizy was suffering from advanced glaucoma, both life-threatening and extremely painful. Her condition was so advanced that a positive outcome required the removal of both eyes. For many municipal animal shelters, the limited budget leaves an anguished staff no choice but to opt for euthanasia.

But Maizy came to the right place. Thanks to our caring community of generous animal-lovers, Friends is poised to act quickly to fund life-saving surgeries. With the immense pain behind her, it was clear that Maizy was feeling her new lease on life. She recovered in foster care, where it was reported she navigated like a pro! Within a week, she was winning the hearts of her forever family.



Through it all, Maizy never lost her sweet disposition.

Tri-pod Tales

Over the years, Friends has helped a number of cats with severe leg trauma by funding a full or partial amputation. This year alone, Friends helped three cats and one kitten in this manner. Each has gone on to live a normal life, which is generally the case with a front leg amputation.



This handsome boy came to the Shelter through the Trap, Neuter, and Return program. It was discovered that he had an untreated front leg injury that required an amputation. Friends funded his surgery. After recovery in a foster home, "I-hop" quickly learned to navigate life with three legs. He soon found his forever home!

Like "I-hop", "CP30" came to the Shelter with a severe leg injury. He too recovered quickly after the amputation and found bliss in his new home.

Cats and Depression

We have witnessed such positive outcomes for the cats we've helped. But trauma, such as an injury or amputation, can have lasting effects. If your pet experiences trauma, be sure to keep an eye out for depression. Signs of depression in cats include increased disinterest in toys and people, lack of an appetite and not drinking, litter box issues, not cleaning themselves, and hair loss. Certainly, your vet will offer the best advice in addressing your cat's depressive behaviors and will help rule out contributing health issues. However, there are actions you can take to help your cat, such as encouraging play, offering lots of attention, and providing a place to climb.



← Certain cats at the Shelter enjoy spending time in "Kitty City" where they have access to places to safely hide and climb.

Socialization condos, provided by Friends and placed in Shelter staff offices, offer the right environment for cats having a tough time adjusting to life away from home. With doors often open, the cats take their time in deciding when to visit with their human office mates. →





This holiday make an easy-to-do pet toy for your special four-legged friends!

Do-It-Yourself Gingerbread Cat Toys

Materials:

- Felt in tan and other colors you like
- Matching embroidery thread & a needle
- Catnip



Dream a Little Bigger

1. Print your pattern and trace onto felt. Double your felt and cut out two.
2. Decorate the top piece (if you want). Please **DO NOT** use beads, buttons, or small things that a kitty can eat.
3. Use a blanket stitch to close up your decorated front and plain back felt together. Leave a decent sized opening to use to fill with catnip.
4. Fill with catnip. After filling use your thread and continue to blanket stitch closed.



Do-It-Yourself Dog Tug Toy

Materials:

- Three laundered dish towels
- Scissors



Real Simple: David Prince

1. Cut an inch-wide strip from one short end each of two towels.
2. Bunch together the three towels and firmly tie one strip around an end to join them. Tightly braid the towels, then tie the other end with the second strip.



****Email a picture of your finished project to KIDS@ffcas.org****



✓ Yes! I will join in the effort to save lives and help pets find forever homes.



Please accept my gift of \$200 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other _____

YOUR NAME(s) please list as you wish to be acknowledged _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (we never share or sell your email address) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I have enclosed a check payable to FFCAS. Please charge to my MC/VISA/AMEX/DISCOVER:

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ CSC (# ON BACK) _____ CARD HOLDER'S SIGNATURE _____

Optional Please accept my gift In Honor of -or- In Memory of: _____

Send notification of my gift to: _____

Please mail this form with payment to: Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, PO Box 2321, Centreville, VA 20122
Or, make your gift online at FFCAS.org/give



PLEASE ADOPT—DON'T SHOP



P.O. Box 2321
Centreville VA 20122

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CENTREVILLE VA
PERMIT NO. 17

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Order your 2019 Shelter Pets
Calendar at FFCAS.org/calendar

Special Adoption Update

This handsome boy was surrendered to the Shelter by a loving family who was simply unable to care for Georgie after an accident left him with poor mobility. A Shelter volunteer and staff favorite who had an amazing can-do attitude, we knew it was just a matter of finding the right person to care for this incredibly sweet dog with special needs. At the Shelter's request, Friends funded hydro-therapy and acupuncture to aid in his rehabilitation. Then, fitted with a donated wheelchair, Georgie was adopted by a special family. It's been more than a year, and Georgie continues to improve with the support of his loving family. His mom Alyssa recently reported, "We moved to Virginia Beach in September so we're still in therapy down here. He's doing great! We go twice a week for underwater treadmill, acupuncture with e-stim and laser stimulation. Georgie loves walking on the water treadmill and can do it really well! He's doing so much better

standing and can take a few small steps on his own. He loves going down to the beach now that it's not too hot as well! Other than that, Georgie just loves hanging out at home getting belly rubs!"

About Friends

Friends is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising partner of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. By funding emergency medical care, behavior training, parasite prevention, dental care and spay/neuter, Friends joins in the Shelter's effort to ensure every shelter pet is offered the best opportunity to find and remain in a loving forever home. Thank you for all that you do to make our work possible.

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