

# MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Fourteen Local Animal Shelters Unite to Raise Awareness for Homeless Animals

NORFOLK, VA – Fourteen local animal shelters are joining forces February 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> to recognize Homeless Animal Awareness Week (HAAW). For one week, shelters across the region will take to social media to educate our communities about animal homelessness.

Norfolk Animal Care and Adoption Center will offer discounted adoption fees of \$50 for both dogs and cats to help these companion animals find loving fur-ever homes.

During Homeless Animal Awareness Week, animal shelters are reminding our friends and animal lovers to spread the word — local shelters are full of wonderful pets waiting for their new family to walk through the door. Community members can join the Facebook event and further their participation by updating their social media with HAAW graphics and using the hashtags **#HR4PETS**, **#HAAW** and **#homelessanimalawarenessweek**.



According to a study by the American Pet Products Association, the number of pet-owning homes has increased to about 67 percent of U.S. households. However, only a fraction of those homes found their new pet at an animal shelter or humane society. Ending animal homelessness can happen if we think “shelters first.”

The participating shelters are Norfolk Animal Care and Adoption Center, Norfolk SPCA, PETA, Chesapeake Animal Services, the Chesapeake Humane Society, Heritage Humane, Isle of Wight County Animal Shelter, Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter, Peninsula SPCA, Portsmouth Humane Society, Suffolk Animal Care Center, Virginia Beach Animal Care and Adoption Center, the Virginia Beach SPCA and the SPCA of Northeastern North Carolina. Individuals are encouraged to follow the Homeless Animal Awareness Week Facebook event for information about adoption discounts and events.

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Contact information for participating shelters:

Chesapeake Animal Services	Amanda McQuarry	<a href="mailto:amcquarry@cityofchesapeake.net">amcquarry@cityofchesapeake.net</a>
Chesapeake Humane Society	Dyanna Uchick	<a href="mailto:volunteer@chesapeakehumane.org">volunteer@chesapeakehumane.org</a>
Heritage Humane Society	Jennifer LaFountain	<a href="mailto:jennifer@heritagehumanesociety.org">jennifer@heritagehumanesociety.org</a>
Isle of Wight	Christina Crowder	<a href="mailto:ccrowder@isleofwightus.net">ccrowder@isleofwightus.net</a>
Norfolk Animal Care and Adoption Center	Jessica Guckert	<a href="mailto:Jessica.Guckert@norfolk.gov">Jessica.Guckert@norfolk.gov</a>
Norfolk SPCA	Amanda Insetta	<a href="mailto:ainsetta@norfolkspca.org">ainsetta@norfolkspca.org</a>
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