



# VOORHEES ANIMAL ORPHANAGE

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## Happy Holidays from the VAO!

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, the VAO included. The biggest and brightest spot of the year was definitely the completion of our new facility! We are so proud that our plans to construct a modestly built and much more efficient facility to serve the needs of our homeless cats & dogs has finally come to fruition! THANK YOU to our super staff and volunteers for going above & beyond to help make the transition from construction through move-in a smooth process. What an amazing team we have at the VAO!

Our luster was dimmed a bit when after just one month in the new building, COVID-19 hit and the world would never be the same again. The health and safety of our staff, volunteers and the public was (and still is) paramount. So, we made the tough decision to close to the public in mid-March. But cats and dogs didn't know that a global pandemic was on, and they kept on coming in. That is when, once again, our staff stepped up to ensure that each and every animal continued to receive the very best of daily care.

We thank our staff, and all animal shelter and front-line workers for their hard work and dedication and personal sacrifice during these times of crisis.

The VAO was faced with another challenge when we made the difficult, yet responsible, decision to cancel our 24th Annual Woofstock Festival. As many of you know, Woofstock is the VAO's largest annual fundraiser. Our daily operations depend upon it! With little time, we did what we needed to do and pivoted! "Virtual Woofstock" consisted of many new components: a "Walk for the Shelter," an "On-Line Auction," a "Shirt Sale," a "Shredding Event" and a "Woe is Woofstock 50/50," just to name a few. We were worried that virtually no one would join us, but thankfully that worry was short-lived. "Virtual Woofstock" can never take the place of the real thing, but we are truly grateful to have such wonderful supporters who rose to the occasion and showed support for their local animal shelter in its time of true need. We hope that the world will be back on track next year and we can see all of you in-person!

Thankfully our "ups" were greater than our "downs," but still we are happy to say farewell to 2020. We look forward to 2021, and a time when we can get back to our fabulous fundraising events. In the meantime, please consider making a commitment to ensure the future of your community shelter. Thank you for your support, and we wish you a happy and healthy 2021!

Can our homeless cats and dogs count on you?  
<https://www.vaonj.org/support/donate/>

## Ho, Ho, Ho, Did You Know?

Did you know that the Voorhees Animal Orphanage (VAO) is a Municipal Animal Shelter dedicated to providing shelter, food and medical care to stray and unwanted animals until their forever families can be found? We are an open-intake shelter that strives to meet a live release rate of 90% or better (also known as "No Kill"). We presently serve 26 municipalities in southern New Jersey, 19 of which are in Camden County. Just like the old-school "Dog Pound," if your cat or dog gets lost in one of those 26 towns, odds are they will be brought to the VAO.

We are also an Adoption Center. That means when space allows, we are able to rescue cats and dogs from over-crowded high-kill shelters and rescues.

From January 1 – October 31, 2020, we have saved the lives of over 1,400 cats and dogs. In spite of being closed to the public for over 3 months due to COVID-19, our adoption rate is up 6% for the same period in 2019. Since our inception in 1988, we have saved almost 34,000 lives!

Although the VAO serves almost half of Camden County, NJ, we do so without any operational support from the county.

We receive no state or federal funding either. Our only income sources are the monthly fees we receive from the municipalities that we serve, along with adoption fees. Otherwise, we rely very heavily upon the generosity of charitable donations to help us meet our budget.

We know how tough 2020 has been on everyone, but the homeless cats and dogs that we care for need our help no matter what! During this holiday season, can you find it in your heart to help those that are unable to help themselves? Please consider making a year-end donation to help ensure that we can save the lives of all the cats & dogs that are sure to come over the next 30 years and beyond. They won't make it without you. To donate on-line, please go to [www.vaonj.org/donate](http://www.vaonj.org/donate)

**THANK YOU for your support!**



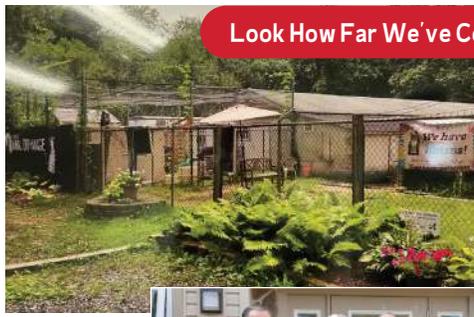
Keep up with the latest news, updates, and adorable pics! Be sure to follow and like us on Instagram ([vaonjorg](https://www.instagram.com/vaonjorg)), Facebook ([voorheesanimalorphanage](https://www.facebook.com/voorheesanimalorphanage)), and Twitter ([vaonjorg](https://twitter.com/vaonjorg)). Don't forget to comment on, and share, our Facebook posts so those pesky FaceBook algorithms don't take the VAO out of your newsfeed.





# Wish List

-  any type of limited ingredient diet and/or grain-free dog food
-  Purina One cat and/or kitten food – dry or wet
-  KMR – powder kitten formula
-  non-clumping cat litter
-  soft dog treats
-  heavy duty contractor garbage bags
-  paper towels
-  liquid laundry detergent
-  Dawn dish soap (blue)
-  gift certificates to Home Depot or Lowes



Look How Far We've Come!



## In Our New Home for the Holidays!

After MANY years of scrimping and saving, dreaming and planning, and straight up praying, the Voorhees Animal Orphanage proudly and officially opened its long-awaited NEW FACILITY! We held a "Leash Cutting" ceremony on February 12, which thankfully happened to be a beautiful, sunny day sandwiched between miserable rainy conditions throughout the rest of the week. What a good omen!

We are happy to say that there is a notable difference in the overall health of our animals since we have moved into the new building. What a difference separate ventilation systems and properly laid-out space makes!

It is not too late to become a lasting part of the new shelter, and help us get closer to being mortgage-free! A limited number of Dog Kennel and Cat Cage Sponsorships are still available. **For more details, please email us at [info@vaonj.org](mailto:info@vaonj.org).**

We may be in our new building, but we are not debt-free. Our \$1.6 million capital campaign "Building for a Pawsitive Future" still needs to raise approximately \$300,000. No bells or fancy whistles here. Our shelter was built very modestly and efficiently.



Truman

## Happy Tails of the VAO

Hannah came to the VAO on Easter Day. We named her "Hannah" which means "Grace and Favor." Abandoned. Neglected. Emaciated. Exhausted. Hannah was in horrific shape. It was actually an Easter blessing that she came to the VAO, for here she would receive all the medical care and TLC that she needed to help heal her body and soul. Many of you followed her journey via Hope for Hannah on our Facebook page. Her transformation was truly remarkable and we are happy to report that she was adopted into a loving home where she is currently thriving.

Truman was a stray that came to us in June. We noticed he wasn't using his front legs properly and took him for x-rays, which showed that he had damage to both front shoulders and a bullet was actually lodged in the left shoulder! Truman was a trooper though, and since the bones were already healing the decision was made not to do surgery on him. Truman found his furrever family in August.

What do Hannah, Truman, Mariposa, Nova, Chloe, and Otter all have in common? They thankfully made their way to the VAO where we believe in going the extra mile to help an animal heal both physically and mentally.

**There is nothing quite like the power of some VAO TLC!**



Hannah



Mariposa

abandoned and emaciated



Chloe

eye surgically removed



Otter

lifetime of neglect



Nova

hit by a car



Thank you to Land Rover, Cherry Hill for supporting the VAO as a "Leader of the Pack" Corporate Sponsor in 2020. Please be sure to visit them at [www.landrovercherryhill.com](http://www.landrovercherryhill.com).

Have your business recognized by the VAO's thousands of supporters (have we mentioned that we have over 84,000 Facebook followers?!) and become a shelter sponsor in 2021. For more info, please contact us at [info@vaonj.org](mailto:info@vaonj.org).



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