



VOORHEES ANIMAL ORPHANAGE

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Holiday Greetings!

from your **Community Animal Shelter**

Dear Friends,

2022 was quite the year! Staff and volunteers continue to ride a roller coaster of emotions doing what they love at a municipal animal shelter. We have so many animals 100% dependent upon us and we are honored to be entrusted in their care.

We had so many reasons to be grateful this past year. With the rest of the world, we mourned the loss of a great actress and animal advocate, Betty White. We were in awe of the movement that came from that sadness as the nation celebrated what would have been Betty White's 100th birthday on January 17, 2022. The **#BettyWhiteChallenge** promoted donations to local animal shelters and we benefited greatly from this. We know that Betty is smiling down on everyone that made a donation in her name!

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In June the VAO found itself down to our last FOUR bags of dog food. We put out an appeal to our social media followers for help. WOW! We were blown away by the outpouring of generosity that we received from our supporters! Not only did we receive an incredible amount of both dog and cat food and supplies, but we were able to share some of those blessings with other local shelters and rescues in need.

September we hosted the VAO's **26th Annual Woofstock Festival**. We couldn't have asked for a better day! The crowds were out in full force and it was the best Woofstock that we have ever had! We also had our inaugural **Pit Ball Gala** on December 2. We're so excited to see how this event grows every year!

The past year has not been without its challenges. Unfortunately, our adoption numbers have been down. Everyone wanted a pet when they were home with COVID, but now that interest has slowed significantly.



Worsening economic conditions have affected everyone, including the shelter. The cost of everything has gone up across the board. Cleaning supplies, medicine, food, litter, and even employment. Global supply chain issues have created local programs directly impacting the shelter. Who would have ever thought that getting cat litter would be so difficult?

The combination of higher prices, along with people returning to work back in the office, has created the perfect storm for an increase in surrendered animals.

In spite of the adversities, we continue to be thankful for so many reasons. We are especially grateful for our incredibly dedicated staff and volunteers. They work tirelessly to make sure that our homeless cats and dogs receive the very best of care. They are the life blood that keeps the shelter flowing and we would be lost without them! Thank you also to our incredible sponsors, supporters, and donors. The shelter relies very heavily on their financial generosity for our existence, and we are grateful for every single penny.

From the bottoms of our collective hearts, THANK YOU for your support. We look forward to all of the lives that we will save in 2023 and we wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

With gratitude, *Your Friends at the Voorhees Animal Orphanage*



Happy Tails of the VAO

Opie lived on a chain outside for FIVE long years. When he arrived at the VAO on 1/29/21, he thought he had hit the jackpot! He had heat when it was cold, air conditioning when it was hot and shelter from the elements. He had lots of snacks and toys, and got lots of daily walks and play time in the yard. Most of all, Opie had lots of friends who loved him. But we wanted so much more for him! Opie wasn't a warm and fuzzy kind of guy. He could be aloof and a little stubborn, but we never gave up on him. After 452 days of life in the kennels, Opie's angel took him to his forever home. He is now living the life he has always deserved - on a farm with cows and cats!

Twenty year old **Norris** wasn't a fan of his family's two dogs, so his family decided that the best solution was for him to live outside! While outside, Norris began losing weight, his hair started matting and he became riddled with fleas and ticks. Norris was in bad shape by the time he made his way to the VAO. We worried that it would be difficult to find a home for a 20 year old cat. In stepped a long-time VAO supporter who saw Norris on social media and came to his rescue! Norris now happily lives the life of a King at Sheehan Veterinary Centre!



Opie



Norris



Can our homeless cats and dogs count on you?

Use your smartphone to scan this QR code and make a donation today!



<https://www.vaonj.org/h22>



Keep up with the latest news, updates, and adorable pictures! Follow us on Instagram @vaonjorg, Facebook @voorheesanimalorphanage, Twitter @vaonjorg, and TikTok @voorheesanimalorphanage.

Don't forget to comment on and share our Facebook posts so that those pesky social media algorithms keep the VAO in people's newfeeds.



Wish List



-  Purina One cat and/or kitten food – dry or wet
-  Purina One dog food – limited ingredient diet or grain-free
-  non-clumping cat litter
-  soft dog treats
-  heavy duty contractor garbage bags
-  bleach
-  paper towels
-  liquid laundry detergent
-  gift certificates to Lowes, Home Depot, PetSmart, or Petco

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit our Amazon Wish List



Why Should You Support the Voorhees Animal Orphanage?

As an open-intake shelter serving 29 towns in Southern NJ, we accept every found, stray, or unwanted cat and dog from those towns. Many of these animals come to us broken in body and spirit. No matter their condition, we give them the very best care and love possible in hopes of finding them their forever homes. When space allows we take animals in from other areas in need as well.

The VAO is a true “underdog” (pun intended). We are a small shelter with a big heart. We don’t have any fancy bells or whistles. We don’t get to pick and choose our animals. We go the extra mile to make sure that our animals go to the homes that are best suited for them. We are a grass-roots type of organization with minimal staff. Our staff and volunteers wear many hats, and roll up their sleeves and do whatever it takes to get the job done. We take pride in doing what is right for the animals in our care. This holiday season can you help an underdog out? We are in need of champions to help us with our cause. Please help us continue to save the lives of homeless cats and dogs for years to come. We can’t make it without you.

To donate on-line, please go to <https://www.vaonj.org/h22/>

THANK YOU for your support!

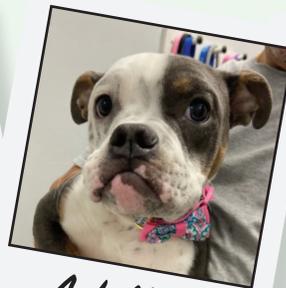


Emergency Medical Fund

Kitt came to us with a severe eye injury and superficial wounds. It turned out that her eye had ruptured and had to be removed. **Albert’s** leg was crushed and had to be removed. **Adella** needed to see a neurologist. **Arnie** had an eye infection that was so severe it needed to be removed. Sadly list goes on and on...



Arnie



Adella



Albert

before



Tessie



after

Tessie’s Story

On September 14th we received a call from Animal Control saying that they were on their way with eight dogs that were seized from a hoarding situation. Yes, eight. As a municipal animal shelter, we know that all it takes is something like this to instantly hit capacity in the kennels. But worse than that, we know that animals from these situations are never in good condition.

Case in point, meet **Tessie**, one of the eight Anatolian Shepherds that came to us that day. While all eight were in horrific condition, Tessie was in the worst shape. Clearly she had been used for breeding and was, at a minimum, severely neglected, covered in filth and sores, and starving. In spite of that, she was so gentle and loving as she was meeting us for the first time. Maybe she knew that September 14 was actually the best day of her life? Tessie made it to the VAO where she got lots of our VAO TLC and was able to heal mentally and physically. At the VAO she was shown love and compassion for the very first time in her life. This is what we do.

It is fitting that Tessie was the first of the eight to be adopted of the group!

Thanks to our **Emergency Medical Fund** we were able to give these animals, and so many more just like them, the medical attention that they needed.

If it weren't for the generosity of our supporters, the Emergency Medical Fund would not exist!



Thank you to **Auto Lenders** for supporting the VAO as a Corporate Partner in 2022. Please be sure to visit them at: <https://www.autolenders.com/>

Have your business recognized by the VAO's dedicated supporters (we have over 120,000 social media followers!) and become a shelter sponsor in 2023. For more information, please contact us at info@vaonj.org.



www.vaonj.org

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Making It Better, Together.