



VOORHEES

# ANIMAL ORPHANAGE

419 Cooper Rd., Voorhees, NJ 08043 856-627-9111 [info@vaonj.org](mailto:info@vaonj.org)

## Holiday Greetings!

FROM YOUR COMMUNITY ANIMAL SHELTER



Dear Friends,

2023 was another challenging year globally and we feel the impact locally. Continually increasing prices on everything directly effects the Voorhees Animal Orphanage (VAO). We've seen an increase in stray and surrendered animals which we know is often due to the state of the economy. Yet as we head towards the end of this year we know there are many reasons to be thankful as we continue to save lives. This year (as of October 31) we have saved the lives of over 1,800 homeless cats and dogs – and we're still going strong!

We are especially grateful to our amazing staff and volunteers. They work tirelessly to make sure that our homeless cats and dogs receive the very best care. Their dedication and hard work are a critical component to the shelter's success. Thank you to

our sponsors, supporters, and donors for helping to ensure that the VAO continues on its lifesaving mission. The shelter relies very heavily on your generosity for our existence, and we are appreciative of every single penny.

From the bottoms of our collective hearts, THANK YOU for your support. We couldn't survive without you!

We look forward to 2024 and all of the lives that we will be able to save. Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

With gratitude,

*Your Friends at the Voorhees Animal Orphanage*



## Happy Tails of the VAO



before

*Griffin*



after

To say that **Griffin** came to us in horrific condition is an understatement. Griffin was found at a local softball field after being neglected, or on the run, for a VERY long time. He was living in what can only be described as a hardened cast that was his matted and mangled fur. He could not see because his hair was crusted over his eyes. He had wounds that were infested with maggots. Between our staff and a wonderful volunteer groomer, his cast, and his past, were chiseled away. Then Griffin came down with pneumonia, and we feared he might not make it. Griffin received a ton of our signature VAO TLC and was nursed back to life. He ultimately found a loving home with two 2-legged and two 4-legged siblings where he is thriving!

**Tastykake** came to us after he was abandoned by his family. As it turned out, he has diabetes and requires insulin injections twice daily. While he is a super sweet and friendly fella, finding an adopter willing to take on a diabetic animal is a challenge. Enter our friends at **Sheehan Veterinary Centre**. Tastykake is now an office cat and living the life of a king!



*Tastykake*

Griffin and Tastykake are just two of the THOUSANDS of animals that come through our doors every year. Each and every one receives the individual attention that they so deserve. After being let down by their humans, we consider it an honor to give them the love, kindness and care that every living creature deserves.

## Can our homeless cats and dogs count on you?

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

<https://vaonj.org/h23>



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



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

There are so many worthy organizations out there – what makes the VAO so special? First and foremost, the VAO is a municipal animal shelter dedicated to providing shelter, food and medical care to local stray and unwanted animals until their forever homes can be found. We are an open intake shelter serving 28 towns in Southern New Jersey. That means we accept every stray or unwanted cat or dog from those towns. We don't get to pick and choose our animals. We take in all of them. These poor souls come to us in varying conditions, often times broken in body and/or spirit. Regardless of their

*continued on reverse*



# Emergency Medical Fund

**Eugene** came to us after being hit by a car. **Pirate** needed entropion surgery on his eye. **Sweet Potato** had an upper respiratory infection that turned critical. **Maxwell** had a broken bone in his leg and required water therapy. These are just a few of the examples of animals that needed extra medical attention in 2023. 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!

Think of your own pets at home. What would you do to save their lives if they were sick or injured? We take in thousands of pets every year and we treat each one like one of our own. **SAVE A LIFE TODAY!** Your extra dollars give our medically needy pets a better quality of life.



Eugene



Pirate



Sweet Potato



Maxwell

## Ho, Ho, Ho... Did You Know? *continued from front*

condition, we accept them and give them the very best care possible. Our goal is to meet, or exceed, a live release rate of 90% or greater (a.k.a. "No Kill"). We are proud to say we have met that goal for more than the past five years and are on track for this year as well!

The VAO is also an adoption center. That means when space allows, we are able to work with our rescue partners to save animals from over-crowded, high-kill shelters and rescues.

The number of animals in our care continues to grow, especially with dogs. We've seen a 24% increase in the number of dogs we've received from the public (stray and surrendered) compared to last year. Unfortunately, there has been a 13% decrease in the number of animals reclaimed for the same period as well. More dogs are getting lost or being surrendered, but fewer are being reclaimed. We've also sadly seen a real decline in the conditions that many animals come to us. Between the current state of the economy, and a growing number of housing evictions, pets are the ones paying the price! But that is where the VAO comes in to help! It's our mission to care for those forgotten animals, and we'll do whatever it takes to save them.

We are saving lives on a shoe-string budget with minimal staff and space. Our only income is the meager monthly fees that we receive from the towns that we serve, and our adoption fees. Otherwise we rely very heavily upon the generosity of our supporters to even keep the lights on for our homeless animals.









So, why should you support the VAO? We are a true "underdog," pun intended. This may sound cliché but we really are a small shelter with a big heart. Ours is a modest facility, on which we are still paying a mortgage. We take in the animals that no one wants. We take pride in going the extra mile to ensure that our animals go to the homes best suited for their needs. We are a grassroots organization with minimal staff and no fancy bells and whistles. Our staff and volunteers take incredible pride in doing whatever it takes to help the animals in our care.

This holiday season, can you help an underdog out? Please donate to help us continue to save the lives of homeless cats and dogs for many years to come. We can't make it without your support. Your contribution will directly benefit local animals in need.

Does it seem like we are always begging? Well, we are! As our intakes are never-ending and ever growing, we have a TON of mouths to care for and feed! We rely 100% upon donations for things like food, litter, and cleaning supplies. Please help us beat this chronic supply shortage and purchase an item (or two, or three) off of our Wish List!

*THANK YOU for your support!*

## VAO Wish List

-  Purina One Dog Food (or any grain-free or limited ingredient dog food)
-  Purina One Cat/Kitten Food (dry and wet)
-  Non-clumping cat litter
-  Paper pellet cat litter
-  Soft dog treats
-  Paper towels
-  Liquid laundry detergent
-  Bleach
-  Contractor-grade large trash bags
-  Gift certificates (PetSmart, Petco, Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes)

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



## A Woofstock Pivot!

What do you do when Mother Nature throws you a curveball? You PIVOT! When Tropical Storm Ophelia threatened to wash out our **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Woofstock Festival**, we took a chance and moved the festival inside of the Voorhees Town Center.

But would people brave the weather and come? They sure did!! We are thrilled to say that this year's Woofstock was our biggest one EVER! Thank you to everyone that played a part in making this a Woofstock to remember.



Thank you to the **Wimmer Family** and **Auto Lenders** for their generous support of the VAO throughout the year. 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 2024. For more information, please contact us at [info@vaonj.org](mailto:info@vaonj.org).



[www.vaonj.org](http://www.vaonj.org)

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Making It Better, Together.