



# The Scoop

Newsletter of the Animal Aid Society, Inc. Summer 2011

Animal Aid Society, Inc.  
80 Butler Farm Road  
Hampton, VA 23666  
757.865.0511

[www.animalaid-va.org](http://www.animalaid-va.org)

Open 9 a.m.-Noon  
Daily

## Board of Directors

**Kathy Fleming** President &  
Assistant Medical Director

**Catherine Sutton** Vice  
President & Medical Director

**Ernie Burt** Treasurer

**Sam Kay** Secretary

**Trina Burkett** Board Member

**Donna Roos** Board Member

**Diane Fulton** Board Member

**Joe Kay** and

**Kathy Fleming** Shelter  
Managers

**Nancy Peterson** Pet Pals and  
Fund Raising

**Sam Kay** Volunteer Coordinator

**Don Claxton** Website Manager

**Lynn LaMarque** and

**JoAnne Ragland** Newsletter

## Shelter Dream List

Canned Dog Food

Dry Dog Food

Tall Kitchen Trash Bags

Large Trash Bags

Photos Included are  
From the Website

## Animal Aid Society Turns 40

### It Takes a Village

Forty years ago Animal Aid Society was founded by three ladies who reached into their pockets to buy lumber, tarps, water buckets and dog food to provide a safe haven for unwanted dogs. Veterinary care for the dogs was similarly funded, with an occasional donation from family members. The shelter is now located on land it owns, funding is acquired strictly through the generosity of private donors, and more than 75 dedicated volunteers join together to ensure the work begun by the original three pioneers continues. I say pioneers because in 1971 a no-kill shelter was a rarity. Currently, no-kill shelters exist across the country but many more are needed. Perhaps one day, all shelters will have a no-kill status. Wouldn't that be something?

There is a Native American saying that it takes a village to raise a child, and Hillary Clinton wrote a book with that title. It also takes a village to run a successful shelter. When I think of the many ways in which people work at and for the shelter, I am both amazed and humbled! There are those who work one or more shifts on the grounds - cleaning the runs, emptying water buckets, and spending time with the dogs. Others serve as shift leaders or board

members, while still others bring their collective skills to perform maintenance tasks, come rain or shine. Volunteers also attend community events and bring dogs to different venues to help them meet potential 'forever' families and to publicize the shelter's existence. Someone even decorates the gates each season to brighten things up! Many volunteers function in multiple roles.

Fundraising is also of critical importance, and we are lucky to have someone who consistently works to ensure our continued ability to function. One volunteer is the point person for medical concerns, and of course, there are the local veterinarians who treat our dogs at a discounted rate. Volunteers publish the newsletter and we even have a stellar video created by volunteers! Our website, also designed and maintained by volunteers, is fabulous and helps get the word out about who we are and what we do.

I could go on much longer and still not give credit to each volunteer for what they bring to the shelter. I will say this; each volunteer is treasured and it really is true that "It Takes a Village." Thank you to every member of our AAS village!

**Kathy Fleming**, President

### Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Poquoson Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. All volunteers are welcome to attend.

## **Kudos to Hidenwood Elementary School's After School Tech Club**

A group of 35 third, fourth, and fifth graders recently presented **Kathy Fleming**, President, and **Sam Kay**, Secretary with a check for more than \$1,700 along with a large amount of dog food for the dogs at Animal Aid Society. These industrious children, led by teacher **Tara Morelli**, held events such as a silent auction, restaurant night, and food drive to support the dogs awaiting homes. We are so grateful to the teachers and children at Hidenwood for their generosity.

## **Fund Raising Events**

Volunteers and our dogs make monthly visits to Care-a-Lot in Hampton and Wal-Mart in Yorktown. Stop by and meet one of our dogs!

We are having a yard sale to benefit Animal Aid on Saturday, August 13 from 8-2 at 108 Autumn Way in Tabb.

Our annual Pamper Your Pooch Dog Wash will be held on Saturday, August 20 from 1-4 on the grounds of Animal Aid, 80 Butler Farm Road, Hampton.



### **Pick Me!**

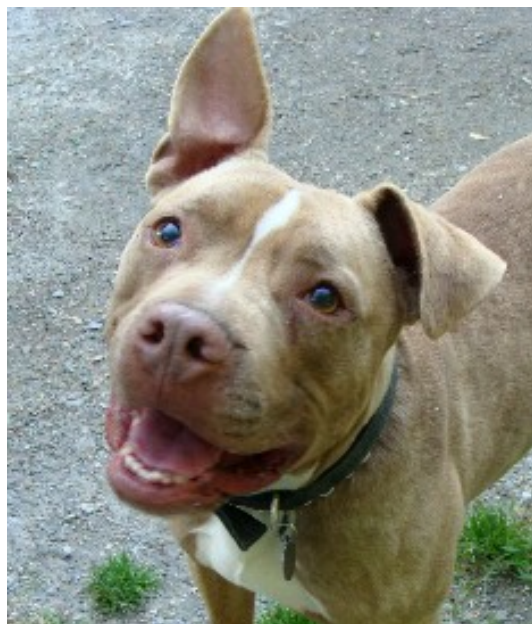
Just look into my eyes and you will see how I got my name, Mooneye! I am a 9 year old 74 pound male walker hound. I retired from hunting and am ready to become a loyal companion for a lucky family. I am very sweet and really turn to mush when someone tells me what a great boy I am. My favorite thing to do is to lounge on the back porch on my soft blanket and watch the going-ons. At the end of the day, I just need a lap to rest my gentle head on. Your kindness will be repaid with love and devotion for the rest of my days.

## **Foster Home Needed**

We are looking for a foster home for Bailey, a sweet six year old Pit Bull who has had several bad breaks in his life. He was brought to the shelter as a young dog by someone who witnessed him being thrown from a moving truck on Mercury Blvd. As a result, Bailey needed and received surgery on both knees. He was fostered by a family who loved him very much, but they were from England, and when it came time for them to return home after three years, they were unable to bring him with them as England doesn't allow Pit Bulls to come into the country. They were broken hearted and had no choice but to return Bailey to the shelter.

Now Bailey has lost most of his sight due to deterioration of the retina. He is very smart and his other senses serve him well. Two of Bailey's favorite activities are playing ball and being squirted with the hose.

Unfortunately, Bailey does not get along with other animals and needs a foster home with no dogs or cats. If you are interested in providing a loving foster home for Bailey and have no other pets, please contact the shelter. AAS will pay for all medical care; all you are asked to provide is love, food, and a safe home. You can see a video of Bailey on our website, [www.animalaid-va.org](http://www.animalaid-va.org). Bailey is six years old and adapts quickly to new situations; people find it difficult to believe his sight is almost gone when they see him chasing his beloved ball at the shelter.



# **Celebrating Animal Aid's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

A Few Memories by Joe & Sam Kay

I would like to share with you how we became involved with the shelter in May of 1990. We replied to a commercial on a local radio station advertising for Pet Pals at Animal Aid. The first dog I walked slipped out of her collar and I ended up chasing her across the vacant field! Luckily she was not as fast as I was! My husband and I then decided to volunteer inside the shelter. After a rocky beginning (I was bitten in the backside and my boots were used as a fire hydrant), Joe set off to clean the runs and the first one he entered was occupied by one of the nervous dogs, Libby. She chased him out of the run backwards! After a couple of weeks we were hooked.

Charlie was out Pet Pal. He was a huge, lazy hound but could scale the six-foot fence with no problem at all. He looked like an F-15 sailing over the fence! On one of his adventures he was found trotting along Armistead Avenue towards Langley AFB. For his safety and less exercise for the volunteers he was kept on a long runner in the tractor yard after that.

Washing the dog bowls was a challenge. Our old fashioned bathtub was outside with a wobbly wooden stand to stack the bowls. There was no such thing as hot water, but in the winter months the volunteers were more than willing to wash the bowls as it was warmer to have one's hands in the water. The bathtub was also a favorite gathering place for the dogs, as the dishwasher usually had a box of treats.

Winter time tested the volunteers in many ways. When the water pump froze, whoever had a truck would drive to the Veterans' Cemetery, fill large containers with water (with permission), and drive them back to the shelter. The volunteers would disperse the water into smaller buckers. Several trips were made in a day. When we had icy weather it was impossible to open the locks on the dogs' gates and we usually ended up cutting them off. Switching to hooks in the locks solved the problem.

We all thought we were high tech having a telephone. It was attached to a pole in the tractor yard. The phone was encased in an all-weather container, and volunteers were kept in shape running to the phone to take a call. The cable box is still located in the first run in Barnyard.

We averaged 50 dogs, which increased to 75 during Desert Storm. This was an extremely difficult and stressful time for both the dogs and the volunteers.

Multiple dogs were kept in several of the runs. Most of the runs were doghouses with chicken wire to provide a small space to walk around. Low ceilings were the norm for the "fancy" runs that actually had walls and tall volunteers had to duck or get whacked in the head! Most have been torn down but there are still a few standing. Barnyard started as a corral with a roof and doghouses with straw inside. The dogs in the corral were considered trustees, and could wander the area. During shelter hours of operation most of the dogs were out in one big pack; the ones who were not dog or people friendly were secured to trees in the public area. We had to keep an eye on people when they drove in to warn them not to approach those dogs.

There were no airlocks, so getting in and out of the compound was a task, especially if you were taking a dog through the gate. One wrong move and there was a joyous breakout of dogs running all over the place. Rusty, our Chow, was adept at causing breakouts. To capture him, though, all a volunteer had to do was drive their car to where Rusty was exploring, open the car door, and he would jump right in.

The shelter did have another resident; Walter, a big Black snake. He was considered a friend of the volunteers, as long as he stayed out of sight. He resided in one of the six run units. We never knew if he was up in the rafters or under the slats of

the doghouses. On one occasion he ended up in the pump room where the leashes are hung on hooks. Walter decided to camouflage himself as a leash. Needless to say the volunteer who discovered him was not too happy. What we did know about Walter was that he was quite lazy. You see, we had a major rat problem---obviously Walter felt that this was not his problem; he was used to the good life. The dogs reacted in a very strange way towards the rats. If one came out during the dogs' playtime the rat was chased and disposed of by the pack. Once the dogs were put up, they thought playtime was over. The rats that were brave enough would go into the runs and feed right from the dog bowls, quite safely. If you came out after dark, your headlights would reveal hundreds of tiny eyes. Rest assured, the rat problem has been resolved. We have an exterminating company that provides their services once a month and the shelter has been rat-free for many years.

In the past few years we have increased the number of runs and they are quite luxurious compared to the old ones. Each dog has his/her own heated and air conditioned run. The non-chewers have a Kuranda bed. We also have three play parks where the dogs that need to be alone have a very nice area to run and play ball with the volunteers.

When we first started, dog food was the major expense, taking up most of the three to four thousand dollar annual operating budget. Now it is one of the lowest, with veterinary and maintenance costs being the highest.

We recall so many memories of the precious dogs that came into our lives. Many of them have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge but not before receiving much love from their adopted families and the volunteers. As much as I would love to mention each and every dog, I will just add a couple of paragraphs about special dogs that touched us personally.

We had three very young Doberman mixes in one run; Teddy Bear, Whiskers, and Julie. It took a brave person to let them out, for as soon as the door opened, they literally

flew out and jumped all over the volunteer, leaving paw prints, then ran off. Just when the volunteer thought he/she was safe, the dogs would suddenly appear and begin all over again! Teddy Bear became one of the first dogs that we adopted over the years.

Bear was a very large and magnificent fellow but was a fear biter. When you approached his run, he would rush the fence and challenge you. We were very fortunate to know an eight year old "dog whisperer" named Rachel. We, as adults, contacted her to help us out with the situation. She came immediately and the transition was a wonderful sight to see; she approached Bear with such confidence, he in turn was as gentle as we could ever have imagined. He was not afraid of her in the least. With time and many treats, Bear eventually trusted the volunteers.

We could not have come from where we were to where we are now without the combined efforts of our dedicated volunteers and supporters; we are truly blessed. Here's looking to another 40 successful years.

## **Rainbow Bridge**

Gone, but not forgotten, we extend our sympathies to those who beloved pets have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge:

*Dakota, Boosie, Sassie*

*Shorty, Katie, Jake*

So long as our hearts beat, our dogs will remain loved and remembered.

## **Forever Homes Found**

The following AAS dogs have found forever loving homes:

**Phoebe, Faith, Mamie, Digby, William, Custer, Dianna, Rocky, Gordon, Jasper, Poptart, Juno, Mildred, Curtis, Blossom, Alice, Misty, Foster, Chica, and Chet**

## **In the Beginning**

Forty years ago, Animal Aid Society was founded by **Sue Henninger**, who was dedicated to saving stray, abandoned, or abused dogs. Years later, **Robert Cloud** and **Pat Scoggin**, both now deceased, purchased land so that the shelter would have a permanent location. We wanted to know more about how the shelter came into existence and what the early years were like. Here is an interview with **Sue Henninger**:

*Was there one incident or catalyst responsible for your starting the shelter?*

"I volunteered at the SPCA when it was still small. It was too upsetting to see the animals loaded onto a truck each week for transfer to a local vet to be killed. Two other ladies, **Miss Foster** and **Miss Roberts**, decided to keep some dogs at their homes."

*Where did the funding come from initially?*

"My mother donated money, and each of us put in whatever we could. We also asked for donations from friends."

*When did the shelter move from York County to Hampton?*

"In the beginning **Miss Fraley**, who was a breeder of poodles, allowed us to use her property in York County. The building materials were donated, and friends and family members helped build the cages and dog houses. In 1985 we rented the land on Butler Farm Road from a family who had farmed it. They were very good to us."

*When did **Robert Cloud** and **Pat Scoggin** become involved and how did that come about?*

"In 1990 they started coming to the shelter to volunteer. When the property was up for sale, they provided most of the funding to purchase the land."

*Where did you find animals in the beginning?*

"I used to broadcast on the radio as 'The Pet Lady.' People would call in with their stories about needing to give up their pets. We asked for donations along with accepting their pets."

*You started the shelter and have seen many changes. What is your vision for the future of the shelter?*

"We had no heating, air conditioning, or hot water. The bowls were washed outside in tubs during all kinds of weather. Each dog was fed the same brand of food. I believe the shelter will still be here for a very long time helping homeless dogs find new families. I love them all!!"

*Do you have a favorite rescue story?*

"I worked as a humane officer at the SPCA for a while. One day we got a call about a dog trapped under a car. He was afraid and would not let anyone near him. I managed to get him out and put him in a car. He leaned over on my shoulder and licked my face all the way back to the shelter. He was very thankful to have been rescued!"

Thank you, **Sue**, for all your hard work and vision of having a no-kill shelter where dogs are safe and can be properly cared for while waiting for their forever homes!



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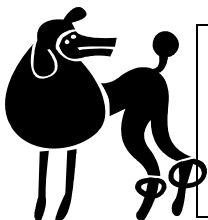
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## **Leaving a Legacy**

People sometimes ask about leaving a lasting tribute in their name to a shelter. One way of doing this is to include an animal shelter in your will. Shelters are continually in need of funds to provide food and care to strays, abandoned, and abused animals. A bequest to a shelter is one way of ensuring your money is well spent, and will go far in helping to save animals in desperate need.

On a sad note, **Bill Davis**, a Past President of AAS, passed away. **Bill** was a dedicated volunteer for many years. He loved every dog that came into the shelter and personally took most of them to the vet when they needed shots, surgeries, etc. He was basically a one-man ambulance squad. **Bill** use to joke and say that all the dogs thought he was their human daddy. **Bill** also went to PetsMart almost every weekend with one of the dogs to advertise the shelter. He asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the shelter in his memory. Even in passing, his thoughts were with the welfare of his beloved dogs.



**Be sure to visit our website at  
[animalaid-va.org](http://animalaid-va.org) for other great dogs!**

