PETA’s Spay/Neuter Clinics “Fixed” a Record-Setting 11,929 animals in 2015!
MOBILE VETERINARY SPAY/NEUTER CLINICS

PETA owns and operates three mobile clinics that serve communities in southeastern Virginia, from Emporia to Cape Charles and many locations in between, including Boykins, Franklin, Gloucester County, Hampton, Isle of Wight County, Newport News, Norfolk, and Poquoson. A total of 3,083 animals were spayed or neutered at low or no cost to prevent unwanted births during this quarter. Of those, 1,621 surgeries were performed free of charge or for a token fee for indigent families. In 2015, PETA performed a record 11,929 spay and neuter surgeries, 7,735 of which were for indigent families. Since the program’s inception in 2001, 122,039 dogs, cats, and rabbits have been spayed or neutered at PETA’s clinics.

Thanks to a generous donor, we added a fourth state-of-the-art mobile clinic to our fleet, which will begin operating in January 2016.

COMMUNITY ANIMAL PROJECT STATISTICS

PETA’s Community Animal Project is a fieldwork and sheltering division dedicated to assisting animals and residents of Hampton Roads and southeastern Virginia. Fieldworkers respond to calls for help with animals who have behavioral issues or grooming needs, placement of animals in new homes, animal retention, doghouses, veterinary care, euthanasia, transport to and from veterinary clinics, and more. The following information details some of the project’s activities from October through December 2015, unless otherwise noted:

- Calls for assistance from residents of 25 different Virginia localities: 551
- Families counseled or aided with regard to retaining their animals: 93
- Animals accepted into PETA’s shelter: 569
  - Transported/transferred to other area shelters: 110
  - Adopted: 19
    - Euthanized: 440 (includes 132 for indigent guardians and 211 feral cats considered a nuisance in jurisdictions that don’t assist feral cats, such as Portsmouth, Southampton County, Middlesex County, and others)
- Estimated number of animals referred to PETA by other area sheltering agencies and veterinary clinics: 75
- Free transportation to and from spay/neuter appointments: 238 (yearly total: 807)
- Free new doghouses delivered: 106 (yearly total: 275)
- Total funds spent on local programs in 2015: $1,876,116
ADOPTIONS INTO LOVING, PERMANENT HOMES

• PETA’s own shelter was able to find permanent homes for Rosemary, Eve, Jazz, Maddy, Quinn, Dana, and Sarah as well as 12 other animals.

RETENTION, REHABILITATION, AND RESCUE

• Piglet was severely malnourished when we took her in and only has three legs (we were told that one of her legs got caught and damaged in some wire several months earlier). We transferred her to the Virginia Beach SPCA for adoption.

• PETA fieldworkers rescued Charlotte, who was tied out among boards, nails, and debris. She was also transferred to the VBSPCA.

• Beloved cat Beau’s elderly guardian, Geraldine, contacted PETA after he hadn’t eaten for more than a week. She had no money to provide him with veterinary care. One of our clinic veterinarians ran a diagnostic blood test, administered fluids, gave him an injection for pain as well as antibiotics, and prescribed an appetite stimulant. But things looked bleak for some time, and Geraldine, devastated, finally opted to say goodbye. As a last-ditch effort, one of our fieldworkers spent the night at PETA’s shelter to monitor him, and miraculously, by morning, he had begun to eat and drink again. Beau and Geraldine were reunited amid tears of joy.

• We transported Brownie to and from our clinic to have a large tumor removed from his leg and biopsied (thankfully, it was benign).

• Maddix had somehow managed to get a fishhook embedded in the skin on his leg. Our mobile clinic veterinary staff neutered him and
removed the hook at the same time. Maddix's guardian was extremely grateful.

- Nine-year-old Akashia had stopped eating and was lethargic and running a fever. We transported her to our mobile clinic, where it was determined that she was suffering from pyometra, a life-threatening uterine infection. One of our veterinarians performed an emergency spay, free of charge, and Akashia's life was saved!

**SPECIAL EVENTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- We continued working with **Friends of Norfolk Animal Care Center** to perform spay and neuter surgeries free of charge for indigent residents. In 2015, PETA performed 202 surgeries, thanks to this partnership, including for indigent residents of Berkley, Lambert’s Point, Norview, and Ocean View neighborhoods.

- As part of “**Black Cat Day**,” PETA’s annual Halloween special, our mobile clinic staff spayed and neutered 82 cats free of charge—all in one day.

- PETA hosted a “**Fall in Love**” **adopt-a-thon** at our dog park. The event featured over 20 adoptable dogs from six area shelters, including PETA’s. It was a huge success, and 11 dogs were adopted, including three from PETA.

- PETA representatives gave presentations to seven neighborhood **civic leagues** in Norfolk.

- We held a **food drive** at the Denbigh Community Center in Newport News in collaboration with Councilmember Sharon Scott and were able to collect 162 cans of food and sterilize 25 dogs and cats.
EUTHANASIA CASES

- **Jake**, an elderly cat, was steadily declining, and his guardian couldn’t afford her regular vet’s euthanasia fee. She contacted PETA for help and later wrote: “I didn’t have anywhere else to turn when my cat had to be euthanized. Thank God PETA was here as a resource for me.”

- **Coco** was an elderly pit bull who had spent her life chained. When her health began to deteriorate and she was losing weight, growing weak, and barely able to stand or walk, her owner called PETA for help.

- An elderly, indigent, frail woman phoned PETA and asked that we pick up her 11-year-old “outdoor dog,” **Bear**, after she’d become immobile as a result of severe arthritis. She had already phoned animal control but was told that she’d have to go to a private veterinarian. Without funds or the ability to move her dog, this was impossible. One of our fieldworkers rushed out and found Bear paralyzed, soaked in urine and feces, and crying out in pain.

- **Prada** was so ill that an emergency veterinarian recommended that she be euthanized. PETA was contacted to assist because her guardian could not afford the veterinarian’s cost. When one of our fieldworkers picked her up, she was suffering from mammary cancer, with tumors all over her body, including one that had ruptured.

- **Elvis**, a 15-year-old shepherd-lab mix, had been suffering from severe arthritis and had had difficulty walking for several months before finally losing the use of his back legs altogether. His guardian didn’t have the money to take him to the vet, so he tried to treat the dog’s pressure sores at home, but they became so infected that the flesh started to rot, exposing bone and becoming infested with maggots.

- **Arlo** had been sick for a few days, was hardly eating, had been vomiting and coughing, and likely had tumors partially blocking his gastrointestinal tract. He also had multiple tumors on his body and was suffering from severe arthritis.

- **Dixie**, a 15-year-old hound, was suffering from an advanced ear infection and a severe skin condition that left her almost hairless and tormented by itchiness.

- **Cream**, a 12-year-old pit bull, had congestive heart failure, was retaining fluid, and could not walk. He had spent his entire life outdoors. One of our fieldworkers picked him up at the request of his owner.
• PETA was asked to pick up **Floaky**, an elderly cat who had stopped eating, whose breathing was labored, and who was underweight, dehydrated, and lethargic.

• **Nala**, a 10-year-old pit bull, had lost the use of her back legs, was refusing to eat, and was no longer responsive to medication that had helped her previously. Knowing that she was miserable and had a very poor quality of life, her guardians asked PETA for help in ending her suffering.

• PETA removed more than **30 feral cats** from a rural Virginia home in a county where animal control does not handle cats, including this one, whose right ear had been reduced to a bloody nub.

• **Molly**, a 15-year-old Chihuahua, was brought to PETA after she developed a tumor on her abdomen, went blind, and began losing weight.

• **Elmo**, a Yorkie, was diagnosed with cancer six months before being brought to PETA. She had developed tumors, including one on her face that had ruptured and become infected. Her guardian wrote: “My dog Elmo has cancer there was no other option for treatment for cure to save her. PETA was very supporting and helpful.”

• On a rainy night in late December, PETA’s emergency pager team was called out to render emergency aid to **Rex**, a senior dog who had spent his entire life chained or penned outside. They found him immobile in a deep pool of water filling a hole that he had likely dug over the summer in an attempt to keep cool. His abdomen was so swollen and distended with fluid—a symptom of congestive heart failure—that he could not move at all. He was soaked to the bone, water almost up to his elbows, and dying. Our team gently lifted him onto a stretcher, loaded him into our warm vehicle, dried him off, and gave him a hearty meal, which he ate ravenously in spite of his terrible condition. Our caller—who had helped the developmentally disabled owner of the dog care for him for the previous few months—wrote: “This past week the old dog’s health started failing fast. He became paralysed in his backend and was very swollen with fluid. Not only that, he was laying in the rain and mud because he couldn’t get in his doghouse. I was unable to move him. I called [his owner] and gave her the number to the non emergency Suffolk, Va police department. You have to contact animal control thru them. They told her to call back at 11:00 the next morning. So I gave [her] the number to PETA. Within a couple of hours of her calling; two ladies from PETA came out about ten o’clock that same evening and gathered up the old dog. I will be forever
grateful to PETA for their caring and compassion in rescuing this helpless animal. They helped this old dog transition to a better place.”

**GRATITUDE FROM PEOPLE WE HELPED**

- When a small dog appeared to be suffering from a spinal injury, his caring guardian reached out to PETA for help. The family decided that the kindest option was euthanasia, and we provided the free service. Afterward, we received the following e-mail from the family:

  “Thank you from the bottom of my heart you team are amazing our precious boy is now resting in peace...”

- A satisfied client took a moment to e-mail our clinic:

  “It was a big help financially as I would not have been able to have this procedure done otherwise. Thank you again!”

- A special thank-you note:

  “Thanks to PETA my dog is alive. They do amazing work, and I’m so thankful for their help. They are a great organization.”

**TWO OF OUR 106 DOGHOUSE RECIPIENTS THIS QUARTER**

- We replaced Justice's cracked plastic doghouse with a sturdy wooden one.

- Thanks to PETA's free doghouse program, Duke no longer has to squeeze himself into a jagged plastic barrel to try and stay warm.
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