



All About Pets



Contest winner

Boomer, whose shown here peeking out of some shrubbery, was the overall winner of the 2020 Gloucester-Matthews Gazette-Journal All About Pets photo contest. Nan Crawford of Unionville, Va sent in this winning photo of her canine friend. John and Suzanne Holt, owners of Sandy Creek Pet Resort, were this year's photo contest judges.

Pet photo contest: Here are the winners

From every corner they came, photos of cats, dogs and even a rooster and a lizard, entered in the Gazette-Journal's pet photo contest, 77 in all this year. We present the winners here and show you inside all the beautiful, beloved pets whose owners entered photographs in many charming poses. On sunny days, rainy days, beach days, snowy days, frigid days, sad days, happy days and scalding days, pets are always with us, cheering us up with their loving companionship. We are lucky to have them. Where would we be without them?



First runner up

Spot the cat shows off her relaxation skills in this photo by Julie Shields of Hayes. The photo was named first runner up in the contest.



Second runner up

Martha Trabant of Mathews captured this cute photo of Aidan, who seemed to enjoy cooling off in this old-fashioned crock. The photo was chosen second runner up in the contest.

Meet the wonderful friends of our readers



Abbey
by Jim and Patti Boughman, Hayes



Boo Boo Kitty
by Christy Brown, Mathews



Flynn
by Cody Brown, Hayes



Gus
by Robin Sterling, Dutton



Henry
by Danny Hogge, Gloucester



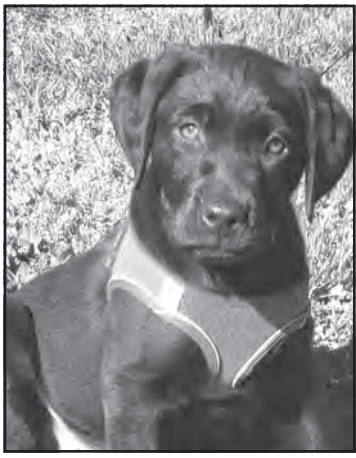
Hunter
by Sheila Armistead, Cobbs Creek



Anna
by Tenna Safrit, Gwynn



Cleo
by Sharon Carleton, Gloucester



Cocoa
by Tanya Carr, Gloucester



Cocoa
by Wade Carr, Gloucester



Dixie
by Tina Minor, Hudgins



Lacey
by Melanie Hamilton, Gloucester

Humane Society answers most commonly asked questions

BY THE GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS HUMANE SOCIETY

For Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society, the summer months are when the number of stray and owner-surrendered pets increases. With this increased demand for services come frequently asked questions. Below are answers to four of the most commonly asked questions GMHS.

1) What is managed intake?

Managed intake is the practice of scheduling appointments to receive pets, including non-emergency owner-surrenders. This practice ensures GMHS has the staff, including veteri-

nary staff, and space to properly vet and humanely house homeless pets. It is also one of the main reasons why GMHS is able to honor the pledge to the communities and pets served to neither euthanize for space nor length of stay. Without managed intake, GMHS would be forced to euthanize healthy, adoptable pets. Instead, widespread support of managed intake makes GMHS a lifesaving shelter, with 97 percent (2019) of all pets in GMHS's care finding placement with a forever family or adoption-guaranteed partner shelter.

2) What do you do if you find a stray pet in need of medical care?

GMHS neither employs a full-time veterinarian nor is permitted by law to provide medical care for stray pets. GMHS does not euthanize stray pets in need of medical care or provide euthanasia as a public service. If you find a stray pet in need of medical care, please call your local Animal Control office immediately. Whether the pet is injured or suffering from neglect, Animal Control officers are trusted community partners empowered to respond.

3) What should you do if you find one or more kittens without their mother?

The safest place for kittens is with

their mother as a mother's milk helps protect kittens from illness. Avoid touching or moving them as their mother is most likely nearby hunting or scared by the presence of people. Kittens separated from their mother too early experience an incredible amount of avoidable stress. They have a more positive start to life when they remain with their mother and are brought to the shelter to be prepped for adoption after they have reached a minimum age of six weeks.

4) How can the lives of feral cats be saved?

GMHS offers three services to save

the lives of feral cats: access to low- and no-cost spay/neuter surgery at Fixin' to Save Spay & Neuter Clinic (804-694-0349); access to pet food through the Pet Pantry; and the Backyard Buddies program, which finds homes for cats (often called barn cats) who prefer to live outdoors.

GMHS averages one or two feral cat adoptions per month and receives dozens of requests to accept feral cats into the shelter, so the Backyard Buddies program was

SEE ANSWERS FROM GMHS, PAGE 3C

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Barley and Bayley
by Dee Russell, Hudgins



Bitsy
by Chris Bridge, Moon



Cody
by Rob and Cindy Parker, Hayes



Keeper
by Davida Hall, Gloucester



Jody
by Delta Quiger, Port Haywood



Ikke
by Ida Ewell, Dutton



Jamie Boots Boswell
by David Justice, Wicomico



Lily, Stella and Dream
by David Machen, Cardinal



Lulu
by Crystal Freiermuth, Gloucester



Honey
by Dee Dee Wike, Gloucester



Cocoa
by Carolyn Cheeseman, Gloucester

ANSWERS FROM GMHS: To most frequent questions

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2C)

created. Backyard Buddies live outdoors, are fully vetted (including spay/neuter and vaccinations), and their \$80 adoption fee is waived. Adopters must agree to provide consistent access to food, fresh water, and adequate outdoor shelter. Email animalplacement@gmhumanesociety.org to adopt one of GMHS's Backyard Buddies. GMHS is grateful for community members' active engagement and enduring support of the shelter's lifesaving mission, for they ensure pets have the chance to lead lives filled with love, dignity and respect. They make GMHS a life-saving shelter and a beacon of hope and safe harbor for homeless pets.



The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society's Backyard Buddies program was created to find outdoor homes for feral (or barn) cats.

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15 facts about fascinating horses

(Metro) Dogs may be man's best friend, but horses have been companion and assistance animals for millennia. In fact, archaeological evidence indicates that humans formed intermingled relationships with horses nearly 5,500 years ago. Horses provided people with much of the essentials they required for group survival. Khan Academy indicates that the domestication of the horse ushered in an era of innovation in transport and communication. Horses also were invaluable animals on the farm or in early villages. Horses still serve many practical functions, but they're more often than not companion animals or relied on for riding hobbies and sport. These 15 interesting facts show just how incredible these beautiful animals are.

1. Horses can sleep both lying down and standing up.
2. Horses have the largest eyes of any mammal that lives on land.
3. Horses can see colors, but are better at detecting yellows and greens than purples and violets.
4. A horse's body contains 205 bones.
5. Because a horse's eyes are on the side of its head, it is capable of seeing nearly 360 degrees at one time.
6. The fastest sprinting speed ever recorded for a horse is 55 miles per hour, though they generally trot at around four miles per hour.
7. Horses evolved from a very small animal about the

size of a dog or baby lamb that was called a hyracotherium.

8. Hooves are made from the same protein that comprises human fingernails and hair.
9. The Przewalski's horse is the only truly wild horse species still in existence. The last remaining wild population is in Mongolia.
10. A male horse is called a stallion, while a young male horse is a colt. A female horse is a mare, while a young female is a filly.
11. Ponies are not immature horses. They are a small variety of horse.
12. Estimates suggest there

are around 60 million horses in the world.

13. Early civilizations used horses as a form of food. But in 732 A.D., Pope Gregory III said the ritual consumption of horse meat was a pagan practice and had to be abolished. Islamic and Jewish communities also advocated toward avoiding horse meat. Today there is no specific law in the U.S. banning horse meat, but most people still steer clear of it.
14. An adult horse's brain weighs 22 ounces, or about half the weight of a human brain.
15. Horses like sweet flavors, which is why you can



tempt them with sweet treats like apples and sugar cubes.

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Chevy
by Cheryl Johnson, Gloucester



Atley
by Dayton and Cassie Wiese, Hayes



Augusta Belle
by Carol Keenan, Gloucester



Blackie
by Nataleigh Thayer, Gloucester



Dexter
by Laura Mills, Susan



Dewey
by Mary Hogge, Diggs



Fire
by Kristina Gifford, Hartfield



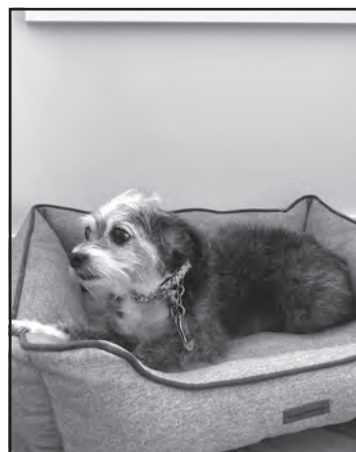
Diesel and Farley
by Judy Sterling, Gloucester



Gabriel
by Bill Thomas, Gloucester



Finnegan
by Lawrence Cohen, Gloucester



Gracie
by Donna Adkins, Hayes

Dog trainer partners with Sandy Creek Pet Resort

BY TYLER BASS

Amy Willoughby, a certified positive reinforcement dog trainer and owner of Shared Joy Dog Training, has partnered with Sandy Creek Pet, Resort off John Clayton Memorial Highway at James Store, to provide training lessons for the resort's clientele.

A Gloucester resident for six years, Willoughby started her dog training business late last year after working for the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society for five years as a behavioral staff member.

Willoughby said she was driven to train dogs after a puppy with a biting problem was brought into the shelter where she worked. The puppy was biting children and

its owners couldn't keep him. Staff members were unable to train the nasty habit out of the puppy, and he sadly didn't make it out of the shelter. Willoughby said that she knew if that dog had proper training he may have survived to be adopted. That was when she decided to earn her certification as a dog trainer.

Willoughby said her route to certification wasn't the most traditional one, but it has positioned her to work alongside shelters to help train dogs and staff alike. She partners with the local humane society and shelters in Williamsburg and Middlesex. She works on teaching adoptable skills to dogs, as well as training the employees and volunteers in how to better

handle dogs that are brought in. Willoughby said that the skills taught aid in the dogs finding a home and teach the staff skills that they can take home to their own pets.

Willoughby said that she recently started a field trip program with the shelters that gets the dogs out into the world and become more socialized. The dogs are taken to stores and parks where they can interact with people and other dogs. They're even taken out for ice cream.

Willoughby has two dogs of her own, both rescues. One has separation anxiety, which made it hard for Willoughby to leave it when she had to work. She said that she found Sandy Creek Pet Resort to be the perfect daycare for her dog to stay while she worked.

Willoughby approached John and Suzanne Holt, owners of Sandy Creek Pet Resort,



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Pet contest judges

John and Suzanne Holt know a thing or two about pets. The owners of Sandy Creek Pet Resort served as judges for this year's All About Pets Photo Contest, facing the daunting task of picking the best out of this year's 77 entries.

Farm Bureau holds Farm Dog of the Year contest

The American Farm Bureau Federation is sponsoring a competition for the 2021 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year.

Dogs will be judged on their helpfulness to the farmer and their family, their playfulness and obedience. Owners must be Farm Bureau members to enter the competition, a release said.


The contest is sponsored by Purina, and the grand prize is \$5,000, a year's worth of Purina dry dog food, and national recognition. Up to

four runners-up will each receive \$1,000, the announcement said.

Another part of the competition is People's Choice Pup, letting social media followers vote for, comment on, share and "like" their favorite farm dogs. The bureau will profile the top 10 dogs starting in October.

The American Farm Bureau Federation is taking nominations through Aug. 20. Full information on the contest may be found at fb.org/2021farmdog.

SEE DOG TRAINER, PAGE 7C



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by Stephanie Sweeny, Gloucester



Zoey
by Lorraine and Carlton McFaden, Dutton



Yeti Mufasa
by Hannah Ewell, Dutton



Teddy
by Haley Hamilton, Gloucester



Taylor
by Judith Gandarillas, Gloucester



Suzie Buttercup
by James Thomas, Gloucester



Smoke
by Burma Roddy, Gloucester



Snow
by Lynn Campbell



Somerset
by Anne Farmer, Yorktown



Spring
by Sara Malise, Ware Neck



Stella Bella
by Krista Chase, Gloucester



Sterling
by Peggy Newcomb, Hayes



Summit
by Debbie Legg, Gloucester



Sammy
by Chris Shipley, Gloucester Point



Rhett Butler
by Linda Grow, Gloucester Point



Rocket
by Staci and Marc Posner, Gloucester



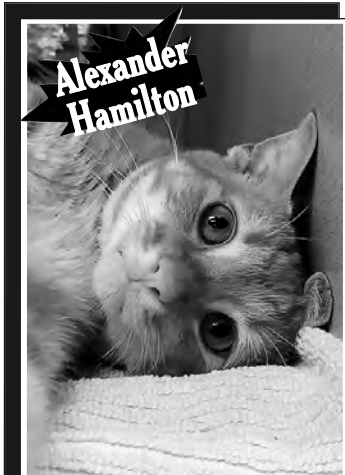
Rocky
by Ryleigh Vought, Gloucester



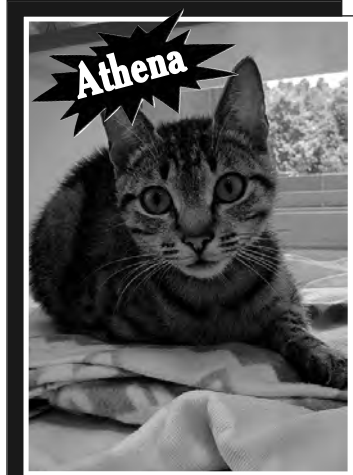
Sam
by Jean Klochak, Yorktown



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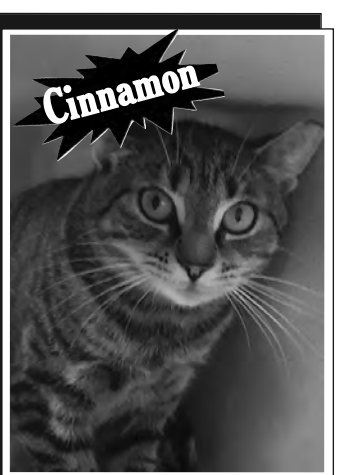
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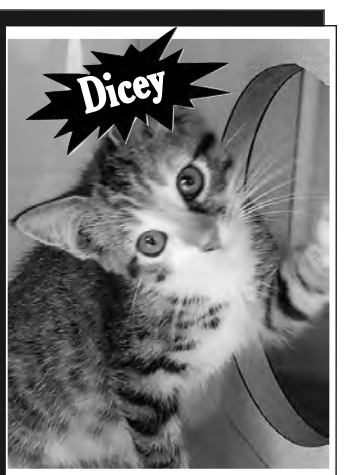
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by Eleanor Dixon, Cobbs Creek



Sassy
by June Pagan, Gloucester Point



Scout
by Afton Thayer, Gloucester



Madison
by Wendy Calder, Gloucester Point



Maggie
by Vanessa West, Hayes



Marley
by Megan St. Clair, Gloucester



Nags
by Cheryl Slavnik, Gloucester



Oaklie Gray
by Eric Johnson, Dutton



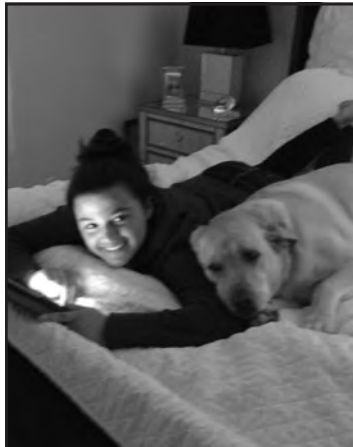
Max
by Angela Justice, Mathews



Millie
by Jeff and Susan Nekoba, Fairfax Station



Mr. Kitty bu
by Grace King, Gloucester



Mya
by Holly Basta, Hayes

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READERS'SPECIAL



Mr. Humphries is a mini pig. He weighs 65 pounds.

BOB RUEGSEGGER PHOTOS

Pet pig is living up—and down—to owner’s expectations

BY BOB RUEGSEGGER

Mr. Humphries is a pet pig who has absolutely no interest in becoming the main ingredient in a ham sandwich or

the guest of honor at a country-style barbecue. This very personable mini pig weighs 65 pounds, and he's looking forward to celebrating his second birthday

around Thanksgiving.

Mini pigs vary in size. A mini pig is basically a swine that weighs under 200 pounds. Regular agricultural pigs—hogs—weigh anywhere from 400 to 2,000 pounds.

“The size of the mini pig depends on the breed. It depends on the DNA,” said Lisa Engelhardt. “You don’t really know what you’re going to get until after the first three years. Pigs can grow for up to three years,” she said. Usually the mini pigs are some sort of Juliana—they are small, spotted, and colorful.”

American minis are not one particular breed. They are bred to be smaller so they can be suitable as pets.

Mr. Humphries has probably topped out in terms of weight. He was supposed to top out between 50 and 60 pounds; he’s 65 now. While he may thicken out and grow a little longer, he probably won’t get too much larger.

“If he weighed 200 pounds, I’d still love him the same,” said Engelhardt. “When you get a mini pig, you have to be prepared for the animal to weigh between 50 and 250 pounds.”

While some breeders do offer a size guarantee, parting with an animal that you’ve bonded with for a year—and love to death—is a difficult proposition for most pet owners to consider.

Engelhardt did two years of research. She followed a mini pig breeder for two years. She went down to the breeder’s farm to see the parents. The farm was immaculate. The breeder had sheets of data including times of the feedings and when the shots were given.

“Everything was to the T. The transparency there was phenomenal,” said Engelhardt.

A six- or seven-year-old unaltered pig that weighs 60 pounds is a good-sized parent for a mini pig. Pigs can be bred as early as 10 weeks old. They breed the tiny pigs in a litter early. The mother pig might be only four months old when she delivers her first litter.

Engelhardt has always wanted a pig for a pet. As far as animals go, she confides that, like a dysfunctional Noah’s ark, she’s always wanted one of everything.

“I don’t want them to breed. I just want one of everything. Pigs are phenomenal pets. They are so smart. They’re clean,” she said. “I’ve always loved them, but then I love animals. I’d take pretty much anything.”

Pigs are among the more intelligent of animals. They’re smarter than dogs, though less intelligent than elephants, dolphins, and chimpanzees. Pigs are capable of solving complex problems. They enjoy playing. They can display a range of emotions and exhibit unique personalities.

“I see it every day. Mr. Humphries constantly impresses me with what he remembers and where things are,” said Engelhardt. “He knows where snacks are. He



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Sandy Creek Pet Resort kennel assistant Renee Hicks on the left, with the resort owners’ dog, Twinkie. On the right is Amy Willoughby, owner of Shared Joy LLC Dog Training, with her dog Jennifer Guadalupe, or “Jenny,” who’s a rescue.

DOG TRAINER: Skills come first

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4C)

about partnering their two businesses. John Holt said that Willoughby is a “perfect fit.” The Holts hope that pairing with Shared Joy Dog Training will help both businesses grow and become better known in the area.

Willoughby said that there are three focuses she has with the start of this partnership. The first is to emphasize teaching the dogs basic obedience skills. The second is to hold outdoor group classes with the dogs and their owners, adhering to social distancing while helping owners better communicate with and train their dogs.

The last focus is on socialization. COVID-19 has caused a lot of people to avoid social gatherings and keep a distance from one another, and Willoughby said that more families have adopted dogs during the pandemic for various reasons. With more owners, and fewer chances for those

owners to take their dogs out, socialization for the dogs becomes increasingly important. Willoughby said that a lot of dog owners are looking for ways to socialize their dogs to keep them happy and healthy. Sandy Creek has the land and amenities needed for dogs to play and socialize.

Willoughby said that she’s really found her passion in life. She said that she uses techniques of positive reinforcement to teach healthy ways for owners and dogs to better communicate with each other and create mean-

ingful bonds. This method doesn’t call for an owner to try a be the dog’s boss, she said, but to be its companion instead. She said that it’s an easier and more effective method of training.

To find out more about Amy Willoughby and Shared Joy Dog Training, visit sharedjoy.com, call 804-413-6667, or email sharedjoydogtraining@gmail.com.

To learn more about Sandy Creek Pet Resort, visit sandycreekpetresort.com, call 804-693-2311, or email sandycreekpetresort@gmail.com.

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SEE MR. HUMPHRIES, PAGE 8C

MR. HUMPHRIES: *Pet pig lives up—and down—to owner's expectations*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7C)

listens. He knows his name. He knows tricks. He picks up on behaviors and tricks in ten to fifteen minutes," she noted. Engelhardt claims that Mr. Humphries is smarter than her dogs. Sorry Shakespeare (one of her dogs). And smarter—in some respects—than her teenaged son. "It took my son about six months to learn colors. Mr.

Humphries learned colors in 15 minutes," she said. Mr. Humphries was about eight weeks old when Engelhardt taught her porcine prodigy colors. She used Lego blocks to facilitate instruction in red, yellow, green. She showed him which color was which and rewarded him when he responded correctly. "When I mixed them up,

he would pick the colors," Engelhardt. "Show me yellow. Show me red. Show me green." After much deliberation, Engelhardt named her mini pig after a character from the BBC situation comedy "Are You Being Served?" Mr. Wilberforce Clayborne Humphries was a clothing salesman in the men's fur-

nishings department of Grace Brothers department store in London. Mr. Humphries, the character in the sitcom, dressed flamboyantly so Engelhardt thought the name was perfectly appropriate for a pet that she wanted to dress up. "He doesn't really like going through the process of having clothes put on, but once they're on, he's fine," said

Engelhardt. "Pigs in general don't like to be grabbed and held tightly. In order to put clothes on him, we have to hold him. He squeaks a little bit." Engelhardt feeds Mr. Humphries a healthy diet. She doesn't allow him to have much sugar. Pigs can't have salt; it results in salt toxicity. Mr. Humphries loves anything pumpkin, she said.

While Mr. Humphries has no reservations about eating people cake, she will likely prepare a special treat for his birthday—banana nut muffins with banana-pumpkin cream cheese frosting—and sprinkles. "We make him eat healthy," said Engelhardt. "It takes more time to fix his breakfast than it does mine."

Meet the wonderful friends of our readers



Dixie May
by Tiffany Keenan, Gloucester



Emmy
by Claudia Sands, Gloucester



Enos
by Tracie Norville, North



"Mr. Humphries constantly impresses me with what he remembers and where things are," said Lisa Engelhardt, his owner.

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