

ROCKBRIDGE ANIMAL ALLIANCE

Edition #5 Newsletter JULY~NOVEMBER 2024

Spay and Neuter Grants

In response to the high volume of spay and neuter requests, RAA has submitted multiple grant applications to address our critical need as the only community-based nonprofit providing these services locally for dogs. We are proud to share that we have been awarded grants from The Community Foundation of Rockbridge, Bath, and Allegheny Counties, as well as a Washington and Lee University's Community Grant. We hope to receive a third grant from the Ursula Landsrath Foundation in December.

From July through October, we received 39 spay and neuter requests, bringing our total to **112 requests** for canine companions since January 2024. Some of our clients are pictured below who recently underwent surgery.

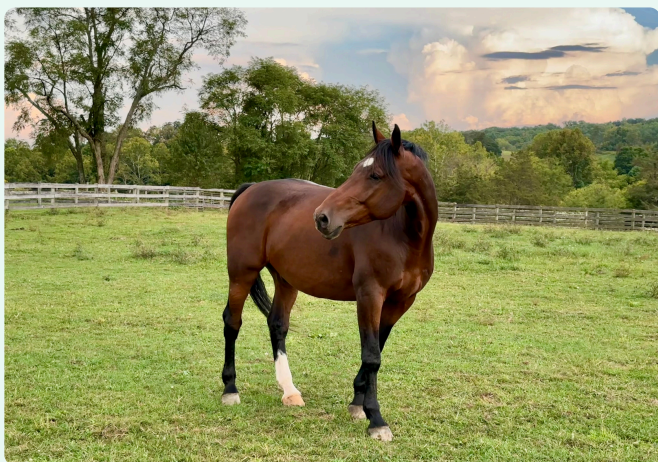


2025 CALENDAR CONTEST

Once again, our calendar contest was a smash hit, raising over \$3,000 to support local pets! This year, we opened the contest to more than just dogs and cats, and we were thrilled to receive unique entries, including Oscar, a stunning Belgian Warmblood, and Tiny Tim, an adorable calf.

The top prize went to Zelda, a formerly homeless feline from Lexington, who captured the most votes and earned the coveted front cover spot! Altogether, we had 25 amazing contestants, all of whom are featured in the calendar.

You can grab your own copy for yourself or as a holiday gift for \$15 at Downtown Books, Spencer's Home Center, and the WellPet Group in Lexington, Virginia. Don't miss out on this celebration of our community's beloved pets!



FOOD PANTRY

In October 2024, The News-Gazette published our plea for new board members. While we saw a surge of interest to fill positions and keep RAA viable, we have not secured enough committed individuals for a full board. As a result, the board has made the difficult decision to reduce the number of required board members and, with a heavy heart, to announce the closure of the Pet Food Pantry.

*Between August and November, we distributed 5,218 pounds of pet food, along with treats, flea and tick medications, and toys bringing our total of food distributed to **14,483 lbs in 2024**. We are deeply grateful to the Lexington Tractor Supply for their unwavering support and to Gleaning for the World, which provides pallets of pet food to over 80 organizations across Virginia.*

Operating the pantry is a labor-intensive effort, requiring trips to Concord, Virginia, to pick up pallets of food from Gleaning for the World, loading and unloading pallets of food sometimes by hand, repackaging 1,000+ pound pallets into 10-pound bags, tracking inventory in our database, picking up your food donations at Tractor Supply, setting up the pantry for distribution, and requiring at least seven volunteers to run each event.

Unfortunately, we are not alone in facing these challenges. As demand for nonprofit services increases, the number of Americans volunteering has steadily declined. According to The Washington Post, nearly 40% of nonprofits nationwide struggle to find volunteers, and Rockbridge County—home to over 150 nonprofits—has not been immune. Despite the incredible generosity of our community, there are simply not enough individuals available to fill volunteer roles or dedicate time to organizations in need.

While the Pet Food Pantry will close, RAA remains committed to continuing our other essential programs, including spay and neuter services, veterinary assistance, and senior pet wellness exams. Applications for services may be found on our website under programs. <https://www.rockbridgeanimalalliance.org/>

We thank everyone who has supported RAA and helped us provide food for the pets and families in our community.



WE LOVE A WEDDING

The Rockbridge Animal Alliance family recently celebrated the joyous marriage of Barbara and JT! 🎉 We wish you endless happiness, love, and success as you embark on this exciting new chapter in your new life. You will be deeply missed, but your impact and friendship will always remain close to our hearts. Congratulations, Barbara, JT, and Reid! ❤️



THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful to our local businesses that go out of their way to support us by organizing special fundraisers. A heartfelt thank you to ZunZun for hosting an event for us in July, helping to raise much-needed funds to continue our mission. Your generosity makes a real difference!



**"BISKERS FOR WHISKERS"
WEEK**

ZUNZUN

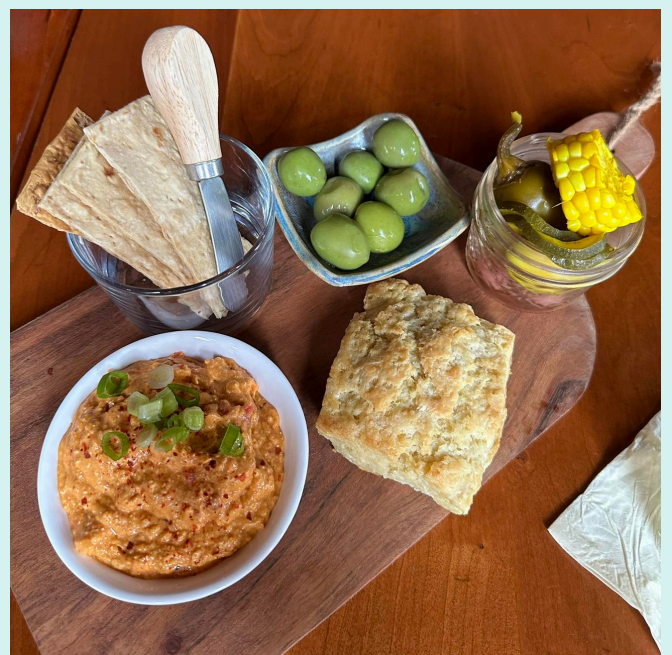
Our full menu, plus:
Ham Biscuits
Pimento Cheese Biscuits
Strawberry Shortcake Biscuits

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT
ROCKBRIDGE
ANIMAL ALLIANCE**

JULY 9-13

MIGHT KNOCK
THESE OFF THE
COUNTER LATER

zunzunlex.com



FAREWELL

At the end of December, we will bid farewell to Mary, Jen, and Barbara, who are stepping down after two years of dedicated service on the board and many more years of volunteer work with Rockbridge Animal Alliance. We are also bidding farewell to Stephanie, Matthew, Aimee, Paul, and JT, the incredible foundation of our Pet Food Pantry. We are forever grateful for their hard work and commitment to our mission.

Maurine, and Dr. Walter Logan will continue with the organization, and we look forward to introducing you to a new treasurer in the new year!

Your donations will remain dedicated to supporting local cats and dogs, helping us fulfill our mission of keeping pets and families together during times of financial hardship.

Most of all we will miss our Pet Food Pantry family whom we have grown to love over the past ten years.

