

# ROCKBRIDGE ANIMAL ALLIANCE



EDITION #6 NEWSLETTER JANUARY-APRIL 2025



## EMERGENCY PET FOOD

When our monthly pet food pantries paused in late 2024, we feared local families would be left without vital support. But thanks to our Emergency Pet Food Program, we've been able to continue feeding the pets who need us most.

Since January, we've responded to 61 emergency requests and distributed over 4,000 pounds of pet food across Rockbridge County. These efforts have helped ensure pets stay fed and families stay together during difficult times.

This work would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters. Thanks to organizations like Gleaning for the World, Tractor Supply Co. of Lexington, and our dedicated local donors, we can keep this essential service going.

## SPAY AND NEUTER

Spaying and neutering dogs is essential to their long-term health and plays a key role in protecting the Rockbridge community. For female dogs, spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer. For males, neutering reduces the risk of testicular cancer and can calm behavior. Just as importantly, fixing your pet reduces the number of homeless animals, easing the strain on shelters.

Since January, we've received 54 requests for spays and neuters, 31 of which we've already fulfilled. Working with our partners—Animal Clinic of Rockbridge, Blue Ridge Animal Clinic, Edgewater Animal Hospital, Lexington Animal Hospital, the WellPet Group, and Mobile Vet Solutions—we're working every day to meet these needs.





## VETERINARY ASSISTANCE

Keeping pets healthy is a tenet of responsible ownership, but veterinary care is often financially out of reach. Delaying treatment can lead to worsening conditions and higher costs, which is why our Veterinary Assistance Program connects pet owners with trusted veterinary partners to access essential services like sick pet exams, vaccinations, and surgical procedures.

This quarter, we received 30 requests for assistance, 20 of whom successfully used their voucher for an appointment. From routine wellness exams to urgent surgeries, each visit makes a difference in a pet's quality of life. Our work ensures that pets don't go without care simply because of cost.

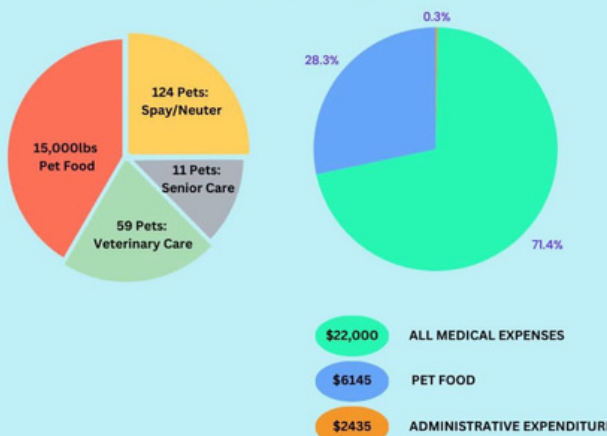
## SENIOR WELLNESS EXAMS

Senior dogs require extra attention, as signs of illness can be subtle but signal serious health concerns. Our senior wellness program helps owners access vital care, including wellness exams, diagnostics, medications, and vaccines.

Since January, we've received 8 requests and fulfilled 7 with the help of our partnering veterinarians. As dogs age, their ability to mask pain makes it harder for owners to detect problems early. That's why routine checkups are so important for older pets.



Rockbridge Animal Alliance  
Where Your Money was Spent in 2024



## 2024 EXPENDITURES

Transparency is a moral imperative for every nonprofit that receives support from its community, and it's a responsibility we take seriously.

In 2024, we spent roughly \$22,000 on medical care for pets through our Spay and Neuter Program, Veterinary Assistance, and Senior Wellness Exams. \$6,145 was dedicated to our Emergency Pet Food Program, and the remaining funds covered administrative costs.



Platinum  
Transparency  
2025

**Candid.**

## PLATINUM TRANSPARENCY AWARD

In April, we were honored to be among the less than 1% of nonprofits nationwide to receive Candid's Platinum Transparency Award for 2025.

This seal reflects our deep commitment to openness, showing our donors exactly how their support is used. It recognizes our ongoing efforts to share detailed information about our spending, goals, and program impact.

## POP-UP PET FOOD PANTRY

On April 29th, we held our long-awaited pop-up pet food pantry, an important event for families who previously relied on our monthly pantries.

Thanks to the generosity of local organizations and individual donors, we received enough food to fully meet demand. Every family that arrived that day left with the supplies they needed to keep their pets fed and healthy.

Our volunteers were instrumental in making the day a success in tracking clients, coordinating logistics, and bringing food directly to vehicles. Their dedication is the backbone of efforts like these, and we are deeply grateful for their time, energy, and compassion.



## TRIVIA NIGHT AT HELIOTROPE

On May 6th, we raised just under \$2,000 at Heliotrope-hosted Trivia Night, bringing together our supporters for a fun and impactful evening. Teams competed for prizes while helping fund our mission, with over 50 attendees making the night a tremendous success.

In addition to participating in the trivia contest, guests took part in the 50/50 raffle and made direct donations, helping us fund our essential services.

We are incredibly grateful to Heliotrope for their generosity in hosting the event and for their support.





## APRIL YOGA SPONSORSHIP

In April, Rockbridge Community Yoga chose us as their nonprofit sponsor, raising \$532! This was a wonderful opportunity for our cause and an example of their commitment to giving back to the community. Through their donation-encouraged yoga sessions, participants were able to stretch, relax, and contribute to a good cause.

We are incredibly grateful for their support and are thankful to have had the chance to connect with the community. Our Board Chair, Maurine Houser, attended a session and had the pleasure of discussing our mission and goals with attendees. These conversations are vital in strengthening the support network for Rockbridge pet owners, all while enjoying a peaceful yoga session!

A big thank you to Rockbridge Community Yoga and its instructors for this honor and for making such a positive impact on our work.

## FLEA AND TICK SEASON

As Spring arrives, flea and tick season begins, bringing with it serious health risks for pets, including Lyme disease and anemia. These pests can cause long-term health issues, so we urge pet owners to take preventive measures to protect their pets.

After your pets spend time outdoors, be sure to check them thoroughly for ticks, paying special attention to areas like their ears, toes, and under collars. Keep your home clean by washing bedding regularly and vacuuming frequently. If you notice your pet excessively scratching or acting lethargic, it may be a sign of illness, and a visit to the vet may be necessary.

By staying attentive and being proactive, you can help protect your pets during this season. Prevention is the best defense against these avoidable health threats.





# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

At Rockbridge Animal Alliance, we depend on the dedication of volunteers to help drive our mission forward. Community engagement is crucial to our success and we face challenges when support is low.

We are currently seeking volunteers for a variety of roles, including Board Secretary, food pantry volunteers, community outreach representatives, food transporters (truck required), food rebaggers, and fundraiser planners and participants.

Whether you have a few hours a month to spare or are interested in a more time-intensive role, your contribution will directly impact the lives of animals in need. If you are passionate about animal welfare and want to make a difference, we encourage you to reach out to us at [info@rockbridgeanimalalliance.org](mailto:info@rockbridgeanimalalliance.org).

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

After bidding farewell to a few of our dedicated board members in late 2024, we are excited to welcome two new faces to the team! Jennifer Sircy, our new Treasurer, plays a critical role in managing our finances and overseeing other essential tasks. Brooke Capuzzi, our new Social Media Director, is responsible for creating engaging content on our Instagram and Facebook pages, keeping our supporters informed about upcoming opportunities and recent events. We are thrilled to have both Jennifer and Brooke on board!

### JENNIFER SIRCY



A New Hampshire native, Jen moved to Lexington in 2018 and soon after discovered our Treasurer opening through W&L's Campus Notices. She joined our team, bringing her strong financial skills and passion for animal welfare. Outside of her role, Jen shares her home with Marley, a rescue dog, and two cats.

### BROOKE CAPUZZI



A W&L student from Richmond, Brooke has always been passionate about animal welfare, volunteering at the SPCA and petsitting. Initially an RAA volunteer, Brooke decided to reach out about our board opening. She now leads our social media efforts to expand outreach, sharing updates and opportunities with our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Sincerely,  
Rockbridge Animal Alliance