

2026
VFHS Annual Conference

AWARDS



VIRGINIA FEDERATION
of HUMANE SOCIETIES
SINCE 1959

Bravo Award

This award is in honor of Elizabeth Sills, who served for over 15 years as VFHS President.



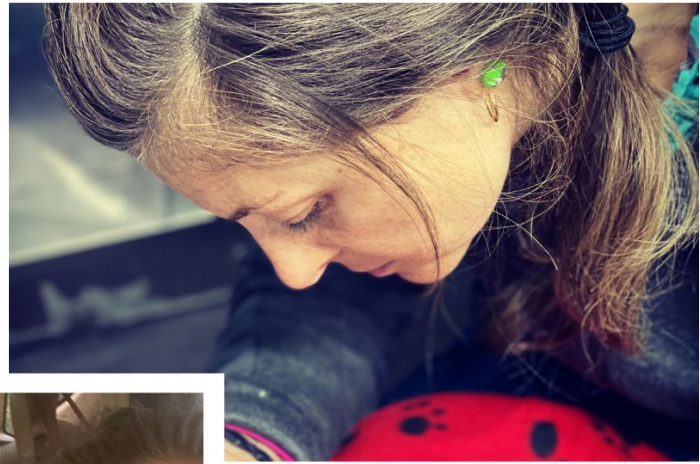
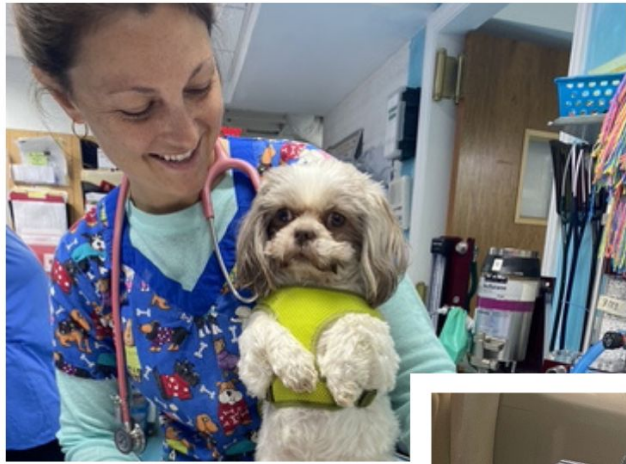
VIRGINIA FEDERATION
of HUMANE SOCIETIES
SINCE 1959

This award is presented to an individual who:

- Has demonstrated a commitment to promoting animal welfare
- Has been instrumental in making an impact within an animal welfare organization, and
- Is a reflection of VFHS' values

2026
Bravo Award Winner
Stephanie Arrington





2026
Bravo Award Winner

Dakota Cassell





2026
Bravo Award Winner

Paula Coffey





Veterinary Partnership Award



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This award recognizes a veterinarian who contributes time and expertise to an agency that provides direct care to animals.

This award is presented to a veterinarian who works tirelessly day in and day out in a shelter or rescue environment to support lifesaving, or who donates services and support to a local animal control, animal shelter, or rescue group.

2026
Veterinary Partnership
Award Winner

Dr. Sara Holland
Mobile Vet Solutions

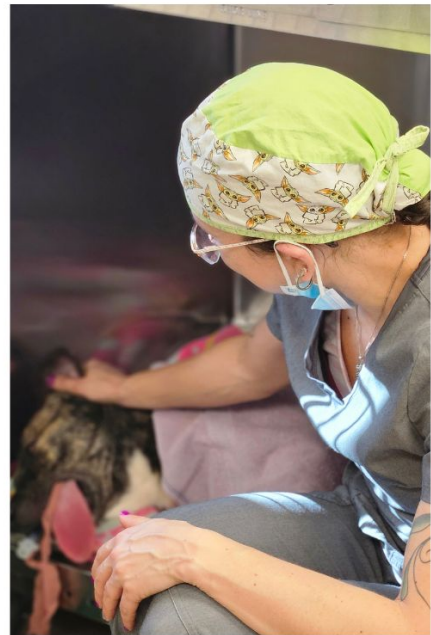
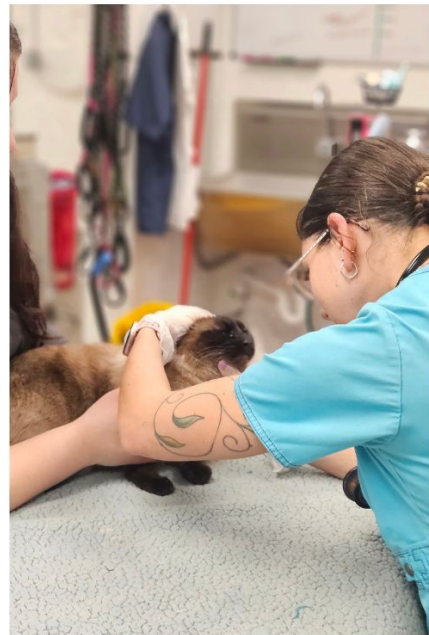




2026
Veterinary Partnership
Award Winner

Dr. Jennifer Kotouch
Martinsville-Henry County SPCA







Field Officer of the Year Award



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- This award recognizes a true leader who can be seen as a compassionate modern day representative for their profession, who works cooperatively with their local shelter team, rescue organizations and the community as a whole.
- They have made a difference by helping to reunite lost pets with owners, creating safety net type programs to keep more pets in good homes and helping their community as a whole in sustaining the animal/human bond.
- The award winner supports current laws but is also instrumental in encouraging changes to local ordinances and state laws when doing so improves the lives of pets in the community.

2026
Field Officer of the Year
Award Winner

Deputy Eric Higgins
Rockbridge County







Companion Award



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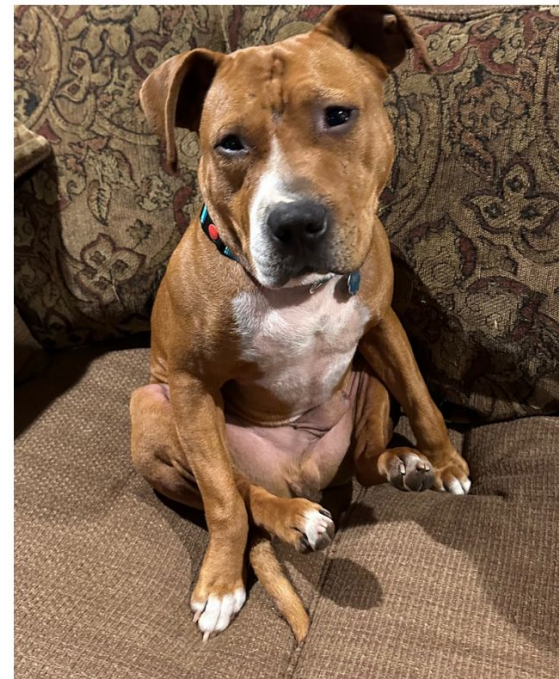
The Companion Award pays tribute to an animal who exemplifies the value and strength of the human/animal bond.

This award is presented to an animal who has either made an extraordinary difference for a person or community by saving, preserving or improving human life or shown continued devotion to humans despite having suffered significant abuse or trauma.

2026 Companion Award Winner

Jack





Presidents' Award



Each year, the President of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies has the opportunity to personally honor organizations and individuals who have made exceptional contributions to animal welfare in the Commonwealth, and selfishly devoted their time to an extent that calls for special recognition.

2026
President's Award
Winner

Tracey Triggs







The Griggs Greatest Lifesaving Advancement Award



This award is named after VFHS fearless leader Debra Griggs, who served on the Board for over 10 years, as President from 2013 to 2019, and who brought together many amazing leaders to work towards Virginia's shelters saving 90% or more of their animals.

This award goes to a shelter or individual with outstanding lifesaving progress in its path to reaching a 90% save rate based on year over year statistics or whose actions and programming have helped a shelter achieve a significant increase in lifesaving.

2026
Griggs Greatest
Lifesaving
Advancement
Award Winner

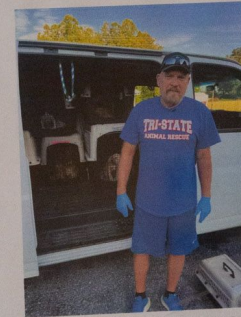
Chris Haverly



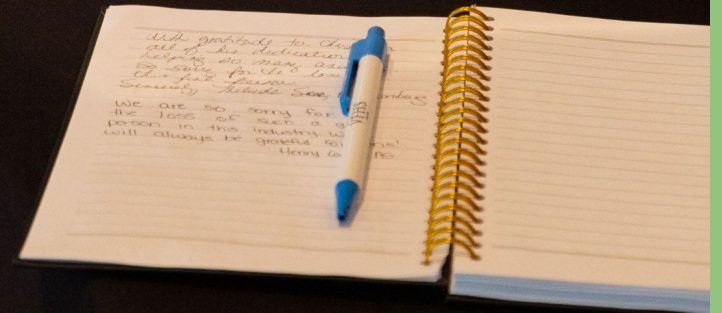




In Memory of Chris Haverly



Share a favorite memory, rescue story, or a message of condolence for Chris's family



We are so sorry for the loss of such a good person in the industry who will always be greatly missed.
Henry Co



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