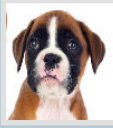


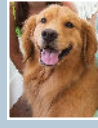


what's inside



Could you make time to be a volunteer and help us save dogs and cats?

PAGE 2



Do you know what to do when you find a stray dog or cat in Burke County?

PAGE 3



Keep these contact numbers for rescue organizations in Burke County.

PAGE 4

Reduce Euthanasia And Spay Or Neuter

# REASON for Burke

Spring 2024

## voice of REASON:

welcome to REASON's very first newsletter!

We will bring you all sorts of information about who we are, what we do, and how you can help. You will hear from our clients and volunteers. In addition, we will include some fun facts about dogs and cats and important tips about being the best pet owner you can be (even on a budget).



Dee with Pilot

Speaking of volunteers, we are in need of MORE! REASON is run solely by volunteers, many of whom have jobs, kids, aging parents, and - of course - pets to take care of.

We are dedicated to our mission and have realized the importance of carving out some time each week or month to pitch in and support the cause! Some duties involve being in person for certain events, others involve working from home, and a few even

involve a little of both. The more dedicated volunteers we have, the easier it is to spread out the work; this helps prevent burnout, which is a real struggle in the nonprofit world.

We are currently looking for someone to take calls once a week: a little spare time, a computer, and a positive attitude are all it takes to do that! We would also love to have more folks working behind the scenes to help on various committees, and we can always use help at our registration and transport events.

continued on page 2



## state of REASON: grants received helping us save pets

**Two Mauds, Inc.** awarded grant of \$7,000 to REASON to be used for providing low-cost spay/neuter surgical fee assistance for those pet owners in Burke County who may not be able to afford it.

**Grace Episcopal Church Foundation** located in Morganton granted REASON with \$3,750 to be used for our mission of providing low-cost spay/neuter surgical fee assistance for those pet owners who may not be able to afford it.

**National Nonprofit Petco Love** invested \$1,000 in REASON to help increase access to veterinary care for pets in Burke County. This will help REASON provide low-cost spay/neuter assistance.

In addition, we are making some structural changes and working to get our organization functioning more efficiently and effectively. After 12 years of spaying and neutering, it's clear our work in Burke County is NOT done, so we are looking for help to make REASON run like a well-oiled machine!



# volunteers: how you can help us meet our goals

REASON volunteers are ordinary folks with different jobs, backgrounds, interests, and hobbies. They volunteer to help Burke County reduce or eliminate the number of healthy, adoptable pets who are euthanized due to lack of adoptive homes or space at the shelter. All volunteers have at least one important thing in common: they are bonded by their love for animals.

We would love to have more volunteers to:

- work from their homes answering calls from clients,
- meet potential clients to sign the forms and pay their copay,
- schedule the surgery with one of the vets and notify the client.

*The more dedicated volunteers we have, the easier it is to spread out the work; this helps prevent burnout, which is a real struggle in the nonprofit world.*

Dee Schaller Greene  
President

Please visit our website to learn more about volunteer activities and complete a volunteer application!



**Total Spays/Neuters  
Supported by REASON  
(as of March 2024)**

# 5,564

## a client's view: Amy Freeman

Amy Freeman has two pets, a dog named Mia and a cat named Tallulah. They were both part of REASON's low-cost spay and neuter program. While Tallulah doesn't like being held, you can pet her from time to time! Amy loves watching Mia and her 6-year-old daughter interact. Dogs and kids: What is better than that?

She raves that the process was well-explained, easy, and communication was top notch during her experience with REASON. Amy found REASON while surfing the web and seeing her friend's picture as a volunteer on our website. Volunteers make all the difference; contact us if you're interested in hearing more!



Amy and Mia

## points to ponder: why should you spay or neuter pets?

Chances are, if you are a resident of Burke County, you saw a stray dog or cat on your way to work or shopping this morning. That stray was no doubt the unwanted offspring of a Burke County pet. There are many benefits to spaying or neutering your pet.

### Spay and Neuter for a Happy & Healthy Pet

Spaying and neutering removes discomfort, distress, and distraction associated with breeding.

On average, spayed and neutered pets also live longer.

### Spay and Neuter to Prevent Cancer

When you spay or neuter your pet, you reduce and/or eliminate the chance of prostate, testicular, uterine, and ovarian cancer.



### Spay and Neuter to Prevent Unwanted Litters and Strays

Stray dogs and cats create many problems in peaceful neighborhoods. Stray dogs can become aggressive toward people and other animals. Both dogs and cats that are not spayed or neutered can also result in unwanted offspring.

### Spay and Neuter to Promote Personal Responsibility

People created the cat and dog overpopulation crisis. Let's promote personal responsibility to solve the problem by preventing future litters. Let's make Burke County a better place for people and pets!

## feline fun facts: did you know?

### The oldest known pet cat existed 9,500 years ago.

In 2004, French archaeologists discovered a 9,500-year-old cat grave in Cyprus. This makes this the oldest known pet cat and it predates Egyptian art about cats by over 4,000 years!



### Cats spend much of their lives sleeping.

Cats actually spend 70% of their lives sleeping which works out to around 13 to 16 hours a day. It's a cat's life!

### Cats walk like camels and giraffes.

Have you ever noticed that cats walk like camels and giraffes? Their walking sequence is both right feet first, followed by both left feet, so they move half of their body forward at once. Camels and giraffes are the only other animals to walk this way.

### House cats share genetic makeup with tigers.

Our little house cats share 95.6% of their genetic makeup with tigers! They also share a lot of the same behaviors such as scent and urine marking, prey stalking, and pouncing.



## 5 tips when you need to rehome a pet

### Check the new adopter

It is strongly recommended that you inquire about the background of the person adopting the pet and whether their lifestyle can accommodate a new pet.

### Check the new home

What will the new home environment be? Are there other animals? Will the new pet be inside or outside? Are there children in the household?

### Check plans for health care

What plans do they have to provide health care for this pet? Do they intend to follow through with vaccinations and regular vet visits? Would they like a list of local vets?

### Check their commitment

Are the potential adopters willing to allow the new pet time to settle in? Would they agree to pay an adoption fee as a sign of their commitment?

### Check on future communication

Will the adopters allow you to follow up? Discuss a worst-case scenario where the pet doesn't fit in. Would they promise to contact you first?

## what to do when you find a stray

Do you know what to do if you find a stray dog or cat?

1. Always report to Burke County Animal Services (828) 764-9588. Someone may be looking for their pet.
2. Post in the local community groups to see if anyone can help.
3. Ask around with your neighbors to see if anyone recognizes the animal.



Follow us on Facebook

or

Visit us on the web at:

[reason-burkenc.org](http://reason-burkenc.org)



To find out if you qualify for pet neuter or spay surgery assistance,

contact REASON

at 828.403.3675.

# within REASON: Carrie Putnam

When a couple of stray cats showed up in my backyard with kittens, I knew I was in trouble. Like many of us today, I was just making ends meet and knew I would need help to stop this from turning into a case of feline overpopulation.

Thankfully, a fellow cat rescuer gave me the number for REASON. I left them a message, and someone called me back the very next day to get my application started. In no time, I had the first cats scheduled for surgery. With their help over the next several months, all the female cats in my care were spayed. No more homeless kittens!

After everything they'd done for me, when I learned how much they needed good volunteers,

I was glad to offer my time. Now I help other people who want to do the right thing for their animals and for their communities. It feels great to contribute to a cause that I'm passionate about and give something back to the organization that saved my furry friends.

If my cats could talk, they would thank REASON, too!



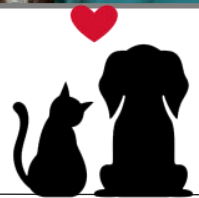
Carrie with her first batch

## rescue groups: keep these contacts!

Looking to rehome or adopt an animal?

Check out these rescues!

- A Better Life Animal Rescue - (828) 584-6767
- Burke County Animal Services - (828) 764-9588
- Burke County Friends for Animals - (828) 433-1115
- The Cats' Cradle - (828) 461-0178
- Partners for Cats - (828) 514-3594



call us:  
828-403-3675

email us:  
reason.nc.org@gmail.com

write us:  
PO Box 633  
Rutherford College, NC  
28671

## REASON's mission: save the pets in Burke County...

To eliminate the killing of healthy and unwanted cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens.

We accomplish this by:

- ◆ providing low-cost spay/neuter surgical fee assistance through partnerships with private practice veterinarians and low-cost clinics,
- ◆ collaborating with other animal welfare groups,
- ◆ promoting education on the humane treatment of animals.

## inside the next issue:

- pet care during the summer
- fireworks fear management
- flea and tick control

