Radford Animal Shelter Renovation

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ANIMAL CONTROL
RADFORD

What I did.

During this experience, I worked and volunteered at Radford Animal Shelter to achieve a better shelter for the animals.

- ❖ I cared for and cleaned up after, the animals.
- ❖ I helped improve the shelter through organization and cleaning.
- ❖ I raised money and collected donations for the shelter.
- ❖ I created animal profiles for some of the animals which displayed their personality and general information.
- ❖ I advertised adoption for the animals at the shelter.

We're still available for adoption!

Why I choose this project.

I worked at the shelter before this experience and have seen some rough cases with animals. The animal shelter has limited funding, and the housing that we had was less than ideal in addition to the facilities falling under par.

Goals:
- ❖ Improve adoption rate.
- ❖ Leave long-term systems in place for organization and animal advertisement.
- ❖ Raise money for the shelter to go towards improvements
- ❖ Collect donations to fulfill needs at the shelter.
- ❖ Improve the overall state of the shelter.
- ❖ Provide relief for the employees at the shelter who are overworked

Animal Profiles.

What is an animal profile?
- ❖ An animal profile is a flyer advertising an animal and informing potential adopters about the animal.
- ❖ Some things that were included are their age, gender, personality, photos, and other general information.

Purpose:
- ❖ To increase the number of adoptions, which was successful.
- ❖ To increase exposure of the animals to the public.
- ❖ To get to know our animals, so we can better inform the public about them when talking to potential adopters.

How?
- ❖ By getting to know the animals
- ❖ Posting the profiles on the Radford Animal Shelter Facebook page, and my social media.
- ❖ Hanging the animal profiles at local businesses, such as Tractor Supply, PetSmart, Petco, etc.

Successful adoption!

Renovating the shelter.

On the weekends I cared for the animals and cleaned their cages, but during the week I spent a lot of time improving the shelter. I had several mini-projects during this time.

Mini-Projects:
- ❖ Deep cleaning and organizing the feed room, isolation closet, bathroom, panther house, and isolation.
- ❖ Sorting and organizing all donations.
- ❖ Organizing and sorting feed shelves.
- ❖ Putting the lobby and adoption room furniture together.
- ❖ Marking holes in the fence and putting slats in the fence.
- ❖ Preparing the adoption room for new cat housing.

How I fundraised.

Raffle:
The major fundraiser I did for the shelter was a raffle. The raffle generated $480, and all the prizes were donated from local businesses. These included gift cards, dog toys, and more. Tickets were sold for ten days and then winners were randomly drawn on Radford Animal Shelter Facebook live.

Amazon Wish List:
I helped the shelter put together an amazon wish list. Numerous donations were sent through this. The public contributed greatly to the needs of the shelter including everything from food to lights to heating pads.
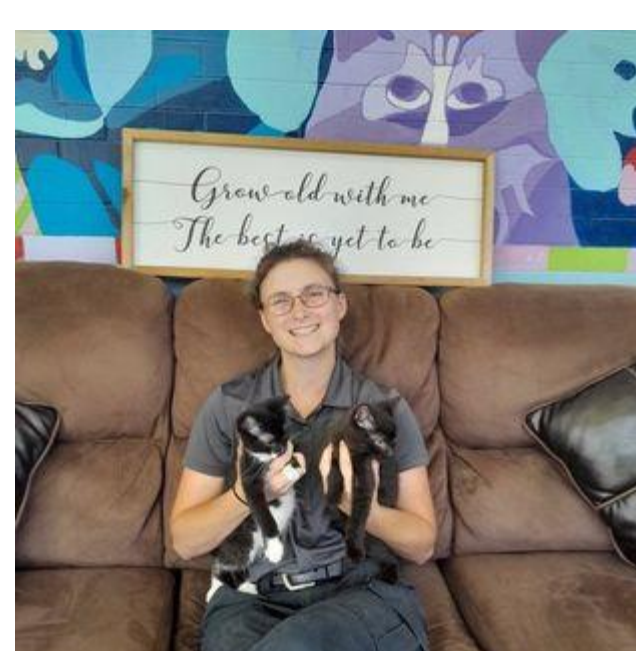
Donations:
I collected donations from local businesses such as Tractor Supply and Petco. These included mostly food and animal enrichment items.
A money donation was made from a business. This raised $250.

Total: $630

What Radford Animal Shelter is.

Radford Animal Shelter is an extension of Radford Animal Control and the Radford Police Department. The Radford Police Department holds any animals who are in question with a court case as well as any strays found in Radford, with limitations. Radford is a no-kill shelter that does its best to rehome and take care of the animals.

Animal Technician (Hannah Close)

Animal Control Officer (Adele Katrovitz)

Both the officer and technician tend to adoptions, fosters, volunteers, animal care, management, and much more. They are amazing.

Radford Animal Shelter is super involved with the public. The officers go to local schools to educate kids as well as attend public events to educate. We do our best to stay involved through social media and always love volunteers from the public.
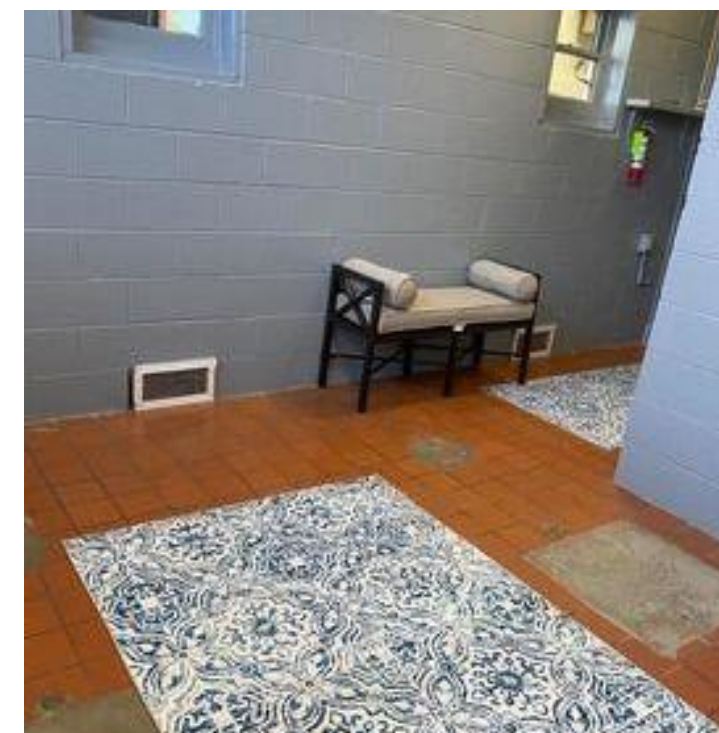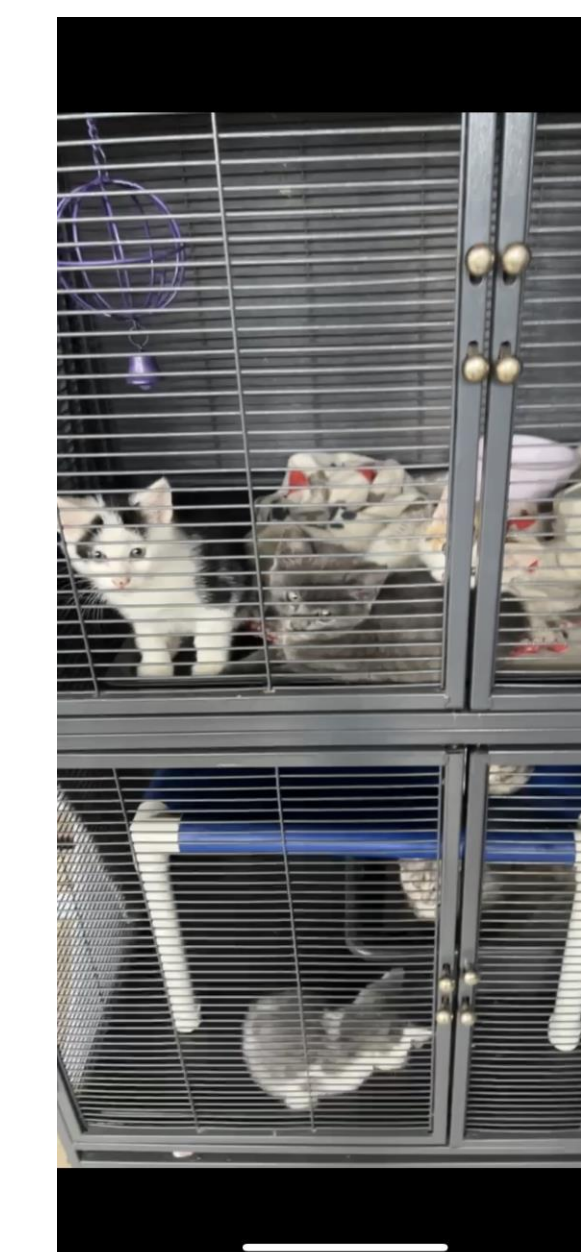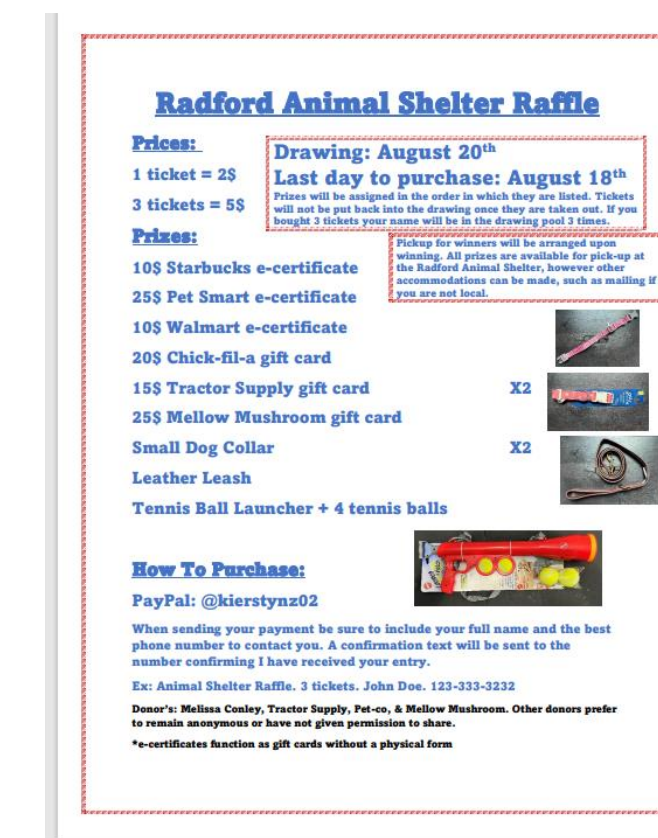
New Looks.

New lobby look.   New cat adoption room.   Preparing for new cat housing.

Timeline

Project Duration: May 14th – August 28th
Raffle Start: August 20th Raffle Drawing August 28th
First Animal Profile: June 15th
50% of the animals with profiles got adopted!

Conclusion

What I gained:
- ❖ Organizational skills.
- ❖ Practice is creating and managing a fundraiser.
- ❖ Valuable information on animals, animal shelters, and animal law.
- ❖ Teamwork and interpersonal skills.

What I left:
- ❖ Organization systems.
- ❖ Good systems for advocating and advertising for the animals.
- ❖ $630.
- ❖ Relationships with local businesses and communities for donations.

Looking Forward:
- ❖ This is a great way to get involved in your local community.
- ❖ Volunteers, interns, and help are always needed and welcomed, so I believe this is an opportunity others should take advantage of.
- ❖ Exposure for the shelter and the animals did wonders and I think will continue to do good.

Questions?

- ❖ How can we make the public more aware of animal safety? This includes neutering and spaying animals as well as proper care.
- ❖ How do we decrease the number of abused animals? How do we make the adoption process stricter in order to ensure the pets are going to good homes?
- ❖ How do we get the public more involved? In what ways can we make the public aware and gain help from the public?
- ❖ How can I change the perception of animal control and bring a positive connotation to the table?

Contact information

Personal Contact:
Email: kierstynz02@vt.edu

Radford Animal Shelter:
Phone Number- (540)-731-3688
Facebook- Radford Animal Shelter | Radford VA | Facebook
Feel free to message on Facebook.
Hours- Due to short staffing hours may vary.
Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:30 pm
Saturday & Sunday 9:00 am-2:00 pm

For emergencies call the police department and they will direct your call.
Phone Number: (540)-731-3624

Visit and adopt an animal. We always love new volunteers too!
This is a great opportunity to gain experience and complete a capstone.