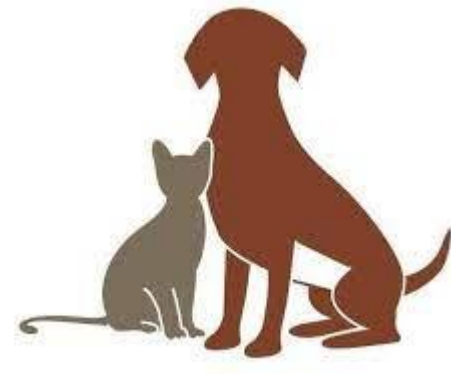


# Behind the Scenes: Animal Shelter Addition ft. Pups



**Coraleigh Hulse**  
 Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center  
 480 Cinnabar Rd, Christiansburg Va. 24073

## Background

Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center opened its current location in 2017. This bigger facility allowed them to house and care for more animals. There are 50 dog kennels and 60 cat kennels. The most recent addition is a surgery room. Twice a week vet students come and do their clinicals. The adoption center is open Monday through Friday 11-6, Saturday and Sunday 11-4. I started working here in February of 2022. I came into the job with little experience. I have learned many skills that have prepared me for my next chapter.



The front of the building. Taken from Google.

## Daily Routine

### A typical day at the Adoption center:

- 8:30 am: Observation and morning medications.
- 9-11: Clean cat kennels in all three rooms (Adoption, Stray, and Isolation)
- 11-2: Wash litter pans, dog bowls, and do laundry.
- 2:30-3:00: Evening observation on cats. Record how much they ate.
- 3:30-4:30: Feed dogs, record observations, and clean up any messes.
- 5-5:30: Feed cats.
- 5:30-6:30: Give medications and make sure all animals are in their kennels.

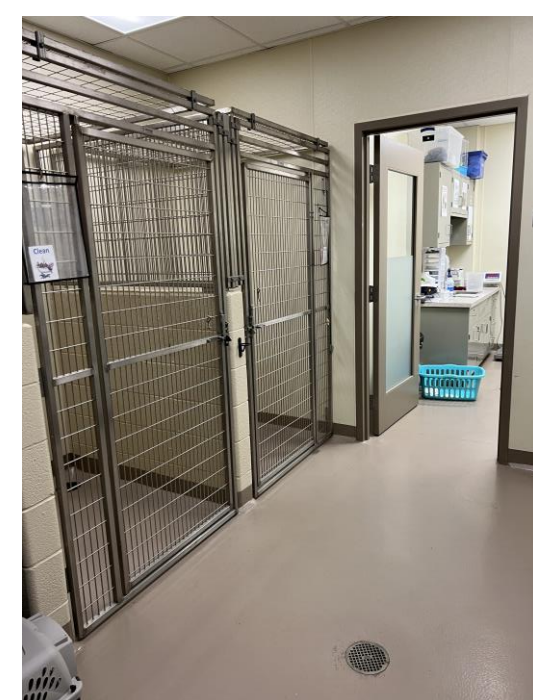
## Additional Tasks

### Intakes

- Performed on all stray animals
- The animal's eyes, ears, mouth, coat and body score condition are examined. This examination tells us how we need to care for the animal.
- Flea and tick medication is given if there are indications.
- If their body score condition is too low or too high their daily feed amount is adjusted accordingly.
- Cats are given FVRCP vaccine, pyrantel and revolution.
- Dogs are given DHPP and Bordetella along with any flea/tick medication.

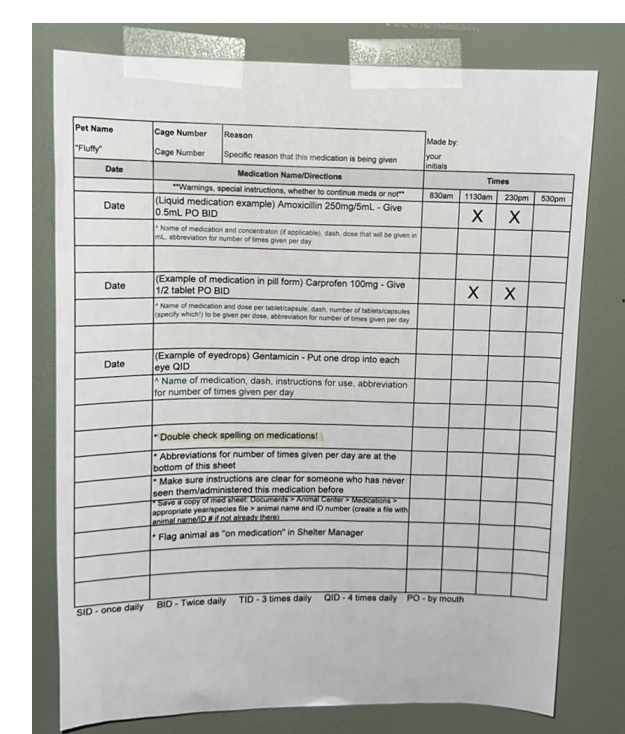


Top: Cat kennels in the intake room  
 Bottom: Dog kennels in the intake room



### Transporting Animals

- If an animal is severely sick or injured, they will be taken to a veterinary clinic or the Virginia Tech Emergency Hospital.



Sample Medication Sheet

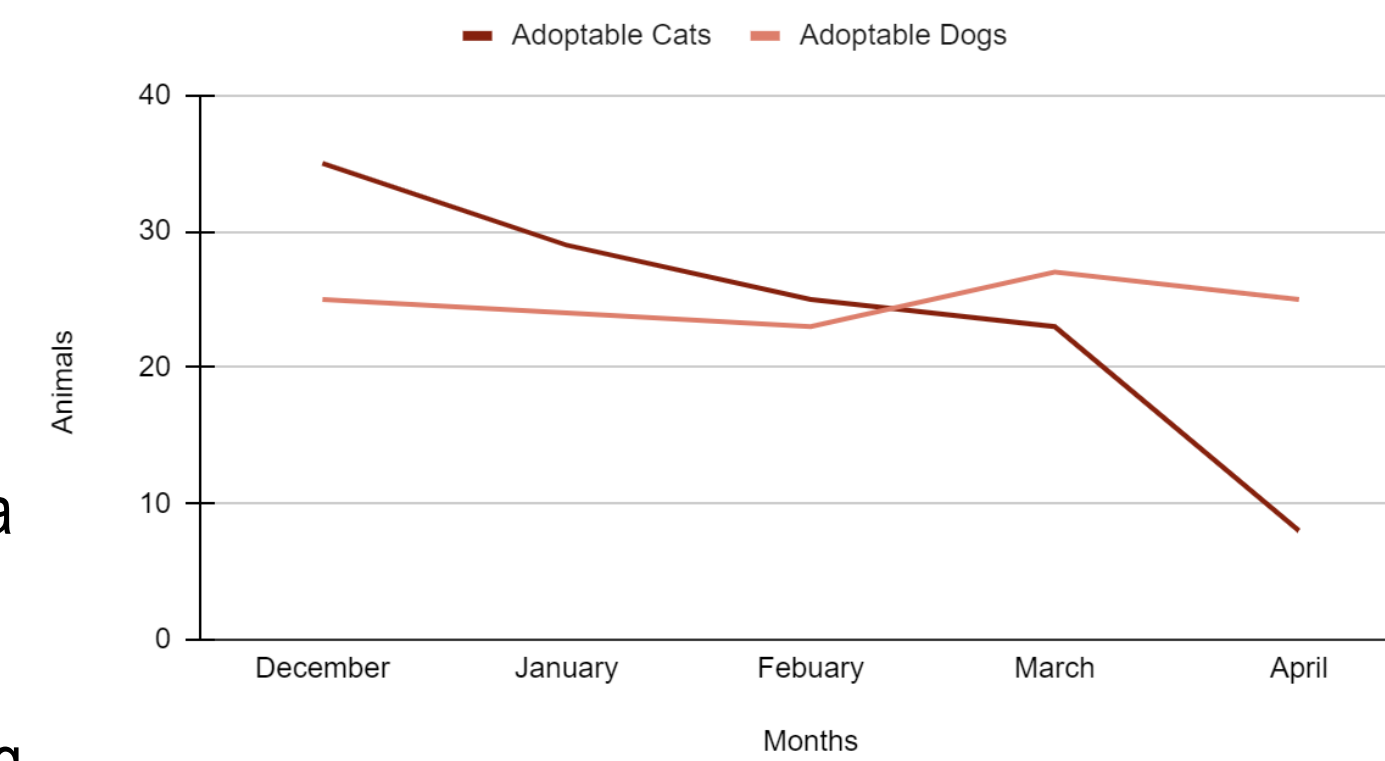
### Medication

- One of the most important aspects of the job.
- Can be given up to 4 times a day
- Medical sheets are made for each animal and indicate the dosage/occurrence of medication

## Reason for my Project

- This graphs shows the number of animals in the adoption center over the course of five months
- Adoptable Cats have a constant decrease as time continues.
- Adoptable Dogs have a steady line as time continues.
- Overall, cats are getting adopted more than dogs

Adoptable Animals Over Time



## My Project

I posted short reels of the dogs on the Adoption center's Instagram account.

### My goals:

- Make the animal look more approachable
- Show the public how the dog is outside of their kennel
- Give the dogs time out of their kennels
- Bring more attention to dog
- Get the animal adopted

### Videos and Content:

- Short clips (60 seconds) showcasing the dogs
- The dogs did tricks, participated in trends, and showed why they're unique
- Gave the dogs time out of their kennels



Sky during a valentine's day reel with heart stickers on her face. Still available for adoption



Luna choosing which treat she would like. She has been adopted.



Fireball in hats and boots, for a trendy reel. He has been adopted.

### Updated Cage Card:

- A Cage Card is located on each kennel
- It gives basic information about the breed, sex, weight and temperament
- Updating the pictures gave a deeper look at the animal's personality
- Potential adopters more interested in the animal



Peter and Reed showing their playful sides. These brothers are still available for adoption.



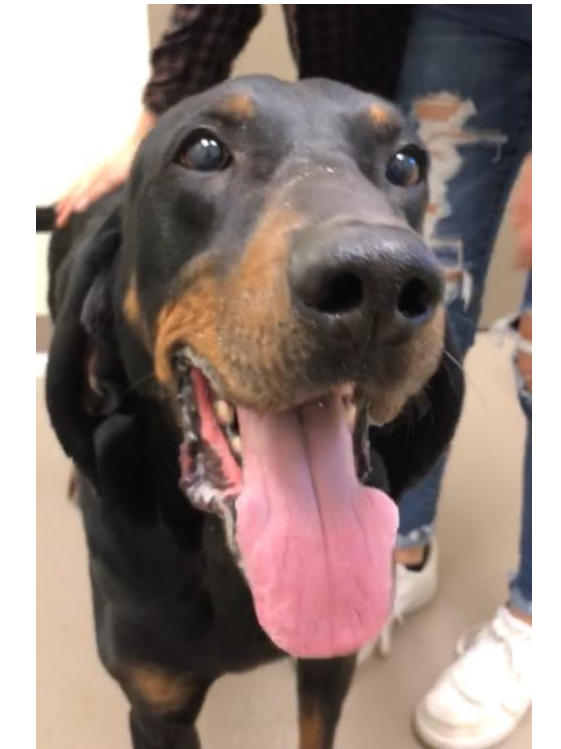
Sofia giving me her full attention after filming a reel. Still available for adoption.

## The Longest Resident

Ice is one of the center's longest residents. He is a seven-year-old hound. He was one of the first dogs I did a video on. I was hoping it would reach someone and they would come to adopt him. The video got lots of views, but no one called. He is a fun, loving dog who just needs a chance. He is still at the shelter waiting for his forever home. Ice is the reason I started my project. I am going to continue to make more videos about him to get him noticed.



Ice and I running around filming a reel.



Ice giving a big smile after doing some tricks.

## Project Conclusion

When I am doing my daily tasks, I don't always get to interact with the dogs as much as I would like. It was nice to be able to bond with them and see their personalities. I'm happy I was able to showcase their abilities and get the attention of potential adopters.

I enjoyed making the videos about the dogs. They were always so happy to be out of their kennel. Their attention spans are not very long, so I always had video bloopers to go back and laugh at. The videos got lots of views and a fair amount of shares. Some of the dogs in the videos did get adopted. It's not clear whether it was from the video, but it was nice to see them find a home.

## Overall Experience

### I learned:

- How to be confident in handling animals
- What it takes to care for a large amount of animals
- Proper ways to give vaccinations
- The benefits of various medication
- The different behavioral patterns of animals
- Communication skills

This has helped me prepare for my future. I plan to attend veterinary school. The skills that I have gained will help me excel. I look forward to additional opportunities I will have at the adoption center.

## Social Media Information

My videos and pictures are located on the center's Instagram page. You can follow or contact them with the following information:

- Instagram: mc.pet.adoption
- Facebook: Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center
- Website: montgomerycountyva.gov
- Have any questions? Contact me at coraleighh21@vt.edu.