



NEW**S** **R**EL**E**ASE
York County Public Affairs
www.yorkcounty.gov



Gail Whittaker, Public Information Officer

757-890-3310 desk - 757-817-2665 cell

whittgl@yorkcounty.gov

Yorktown Invites Pet Owners to Shop the Market and Enjoy Expanded Paws at the River Festivities

August 30, 2018

On Saturday, September 8, Yorktown will celebrate the end to the dog days of summer with **Paws at the River**. Due to overwhelming interest from the community, this year's event at the waterfront has been extended to run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature close to two dozen animal welfare organizations, free pet portraits, a live animal show, and face painting for the kids!

According to Paws at the River organizer Belinda Willis, this annual event is designed to educate the general public about adopting rescue animals, and to showcase some pets that might be lucky enough to find their "forever" homes.

"If one pup gets a permanent home that day, it's worth my time. People can also find out just how many rescue organizations there are that are dedicated to a particular breed. If you have your heart set on specific type of dog, rescue is a great alternative to purchasing from a breeder," says Willis.

People who own pets or are considering adopting, will find materials about spaying and neutering, including low-cost options. They can also take advantage of giveaways of dog food samples and pet snacks.

The following **rescue and animal welfare organizations** will be in attendance: 4 Paws Animal Rescue, Critter Sitters and More, Critters 4 U Rescue, Deer Park Animal Hospital, Dogs on Deployment, Go Rescue Pet Adoption Center, Just Say K9 Sports, New Leash K9 Rescue, No More Chasing Tails, On Command Dog Training, Pawpered Pet Treat and Boutique, Peninsula K9 Training, Peninsula Pet Pantry, Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter, Pit Road Rescue, Poquoson Animal Welfare Sanctuary, Pugs U Gotta Save, Rakki Inu Akita Rescue, Reptile Education of VA, SEVAGSR, The Cat Corner, The Meow Manor, and Virginia German Shepherd Rescue.

One of this year's highlights and new feature is the **Virginia Living Museum's "Animal Friends" show funded by the Riverwalk Landing Business Association** and held on the performance stage next to the Freight Shed at 1 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets, wagons, and strollers to set up on the grassy field in front of the stage for this 45-minute educational program. York County will provide **free pet portraits** from 8 to 11 a.m. that will be posted to the Visit Yorktown Facebook for easy download. Our younger visitors will enjoy Face Painting by Vivian, which will be set up from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The regular **farmers market** is in its usual spot with more than 30 different artists, vendors, and food trucks selling meat and seafood; seasonal produce; freshly baked breads and desserts; local honey; cold brewed nitro coffee and hand-shaken lemonades; fresh-cut flowers; and more. Veteran

vendor FiDough Gourmet Dog Treats will be selling healthy, all-natural snacks for pups and several other businesses will be featuring special pet-themed items that day. There will be live music from **Henley Fork** until noon, and two **cooking demonstrations**. Chef K will show visitors how to make Cuban Black Beans & Rice—which can be cooked separately and shared with dogs prior to seasoning! That demonstration begins at 10:30 a.m. Then, at 12:30 p.m., Carrot Tree will show guests how to make healthy dog treats from scratch.

Free parking is available inside the two-level garage on Water Street, York-Poquoson Courthouse, County Administration Building, York Hall, and designated lots throughout town. The Yorktown Trolley runs 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., though the only canine passengers permitted are service dogs.

York County would like to extend a friendly request that pet owners please pick up after their animals. There are several “Mutt Mitt” dispensers conveniently attached to trash receptacles throughout town. September days can still be pretty warm. A dog water bowl filling station is located year-round at the water fountains close to the Dockmasters Office. While dogs are not allowed on the main beach area, guests can walk their pups (on leash) along the brick-paved Riverwalk. Dogs are permitted in the sand and water past the restaurants and shops on the other side of the Coleman Bridge. They can also sit with their owners on the patios of Water Street Grille and Ben & Jerry’s!

Additional Event Info:

- www.visitorktown.org
- York County Tourism Development: (757) 890-3500
- Facebook: Visit Yorktown
- Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter: Visit Yorktown **#visitorktown #pawsattheriver #yorktownmarketdays #lovemymarket**

Additional photos available online: <http://bit.ly/2PBitBT>

