



Explore the Virginia Beach SPCA

Cultivate your empathy and compassion by learning to understand and respect the feelings of others at the Virginia Beach SPCA. Earn your VBSPCA Compassion Patch while touring our shelter at 3040 Holland Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23453. For more information on how to book your tour, please go to <https://vbspca.com/private-tours/>.

GUIDELINES: Based on the grid, complete the number of activities for your grade level to earn this patch.

	DISCOVER	CONNECT	TAKE ACTION	ANY ACTIVITY UNDER ANY KEY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0	3
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2	5
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3	6
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5	8

DISCOVER

- What services does the Clinic provide?
- How does the VBSPCA help the community?
- How can the VBSPCA prevent pet owners from relinquishing their animals?
- What small animals can we take care of in our shelter?
- How many cats and small animals can the cattery hold?
- Who takes care of the baby animals (i.e. kittens and puppies)?
- What is enrichment, and why is it important?
- How many dogs can our kennel hold?
- What is socialization, and what programs do we have at the shelter that helps our animals with socialization?
- What is spaying and neutering and why is it important for animals and our community?
- Who helps the VBSPCA take care of the animals?
- What causes heartworms and how can they be prevented?

CONNECT

- Did you see some signs that read, "I have a cold"? Animals can get sick, injured and have diseases requiring medical care just like you. Who do animals see when they get need care? Are there vaccines they can get to prevent them from getting illnesses and disease like humans get? Read these articles to see what some animals need and then talk to your parent to see how it compares to what you need to prevent illness: <https://vbspca.com/the-importance-of-vaccinating-your-pet/> and <https://vbspca.com/heartworm/>.

- Enrichment is very important in the everyday life of an animal; it helps encourage and stimulate an animal’s natural behavior and can help decrease unwanted behaviors in your home (i.e. scratching your couch or chewing on your shoes). Fill in the chart of enrichments you see in the shelter and what you do for enrichment.

	Small Animal	Cats	Dogs	Humans
Types of Enrichments				

- How do you know if a cat or a dog wants to be your friend, or wants to be left alone? Just like humans’ body language and facial expressions, animals tell us with their bodies how they are feeling. Read this article (<https://vbspca.com/tail-talk/>) or use the graphic below to learn about what cats and dogs are telling us, then draw a picture of a human face to match the expression of how the dog/cat is feeling for each “tail language.”



Cat Tail Language

Upright Tail: Your cat is feeling confident, alert, and friendly. If the tip of their tail twitches when it is straight up in the air, your feline is feeling particularly happy.

Swishing Slowly: If your cat is moving their tail slowly from side to side, it means he is focused on an object such as a toy. They’ll likely pounce on that item!

Whipping Tail: A cat that is whipping their tail back and forth is agitated. You should consider this a warning to stay away.

Puffy Tail: Cats puff up their tails when they are afraid. By raising their fur, they are making themselves look bigger to scare off whatever is making them fearful.

Pulled Close: Another indicator of fear is when a cat pulls their tail closely into their body or wraps it around their feet.



Dog Tail Language

Wagging Loosely: When a dog is wagging their tail loosely from side to side or in a circular motion, they are relaxed, friendly, and happy.

Straight Out: If a dog is holding their tail horizontally behind them, they are curious and attentive. Hunting breeds also hold their tails this way when they are pointing out an animal or object.

Vertical Wag: Straight up with quick, small wags, your dog is alert and may be feeling aggressive or threatened. Give them space, especially if this type of wagging is paired with raised fur on their back and/or tail, staring, growling, lunging, or barking.

Tucked Tail: Your dog is afraid. Tucking the tail is one of the ways dogs try to make themselves smaller when they feel threatened.

- Did you know dental care is important for cats and dogs too? Read this article (<https://vbspca.com/pet-dental-health/>) and then fill in the chart below.

	Dogs/Cats	Humans
How many dental exams in one year?		
Name 5 things to do to prevent dental disease:		
Name 5 signs there may be signs of disease/cavities:		
What are some serious side effects of dental disease?		

TAKE ACTION

- The VBSPCA provides triage to wildlife that have been injured and then turns them over to local wildlife rehabilitation. How can you tell if an animal should be taken from its environment? Read over this information (<https://vbspca.com/wildlife-is-human-intervention-necessary/>) and then make your own poster to present to your troop to let them know what to do with wildlife.
- Do you have pets at home? Are you prepared for a disaster? Here at the VBSPCA we have to plan to be ready to help the humans and all the animals we can. Read this article (<https://vbspca.com/disaster-plan-for-pets/>) and then plan with your family to have supplies ready for disaster.
- As a troop, collect donations from our Wish List (<https://vbspca.com/wish-list/>) and coordinate a time with our [Humane Education Manager](#) to drop them off.
- Individually, or collectively as a troop, create enrichments for our shelter animals using the instructions from our Craft Projects for Shelter Animals page (<https://vbspca.com/crafts/>).
- Read some of our “Happy Tails” stories. Select one of them as the inspiration to write your own story from the animal’s perspective. Make sure to include their senses, feelings from the beginning before coming to shelter and then life after the shelter. This story may be written in paragraph format, comic strip format or storybook format – be creative!
 - Molly: <https://vbspca.com/happy-tails-molly/>
 - Dixie: <https://vbspca.com/happy-tails-dixie/>
 - Citrus: <https://vbspca.com/happy-tails-citrus/>
 - Bentley: <https://vbspca.com/happy-tails-bentley/>
 - Basil: <https://vbspca.com/happy-tails-basil/>