



Media Advisory

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Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection Invites Public to Take Dogs on Field Trips

Roanoke, Virginia – Someone let the shelter dogs out – and it’s saving their lives and bringing out the public in droves. RCACP is proud to announce its new ***Roanoke Adventure Dogs*** program, which pairs members of the community with shelter dogs for field trips. Outings can last from one hour to all day, and can include a hike, a nice walk on our greenways, a trip to the lake, a sleepover in a home or even a trip to pet-friendly shops. Whether you already have a dog or aren’t ready to have one just yet, it’s a great way to get your pet fix in. “We have a dog for every level of energy, so it will not be hard to pair up the right dog with the right participant. Our initial kickoff is May 10 and we are very hopeful that the community will come support our shelter dogs,” says Mike Warner, Interim Executive Director.

The ***Roanoke Adventure Dogs*** program was created in order to help reduce kennel stress and provide dogs with enrichment and increased visibility. Outings give the shelter staff valuable insight on how the dogs behave outside a shelter environment. It’s also a great excuse to spend a day doing something new or exploring the Roanoke Valley.

“We are really excited to be partnering with the RCACP in the Arizona State University/Virginia Tech Maddie’s Nationwide Fostering Study. They are one of 100 shelters nationwide that are participating to help us learn about the effects of fostering for shelter dogs and the shelters themselves. By being part of this program, the RCACP is implementing a new shelter dog field trip program (***Roanoke Adventure Dogs***) that will allow the shelter dogs to get a much needed break from the shelter while they wait for their adoptive home. Additionally, the field trip program allows the shelter to learn valuable information on the dog’s behavior that can be used to help find it the perfect adoptive home. We are thrilled to be able to work with such progressive and creative shelters as RCACP to help shelter dogs everywhere,” states Dr. Erica Feuerbacher, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech.

This program was designed to make it easy for the community to participate, so signing up is easy. Participants will be provided with everything they need for a successful field trip. Individuals or families interested in the Roanoke Adventure Dogs Program should email Meghann Cords at mcords@rcacp.org or call the shelter at 540-344-4922 to sign up.

“Foster care is the gold standard for lifesaving and we consider foster caregivers as the VIPs,” said Mary Ippoliti-Smith, Executive Leadership Team of Maddie’s Fund.

About RCACP

The Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection serves the City of Roanoke, the Counties of Botetourt and Roanoke, and the Town of Vinton, and is an “open intake facility.” The Regional Center primarily handles stray animals picked up by the Animal Control Officers employed by the municipalities, but also accepts strays that are found, and animals owned, by citizens of the municipalities served. Each year the Regional Center receives between 4,000 and 6,000 animals. The RCACP primary goal is to return animals to their owners; if an animal goes unclaimed, they are made available for adoption or transferred to other animal welfare organizations.

