

# The Arlington Connection

# Why We Rescue

Denise Elliott, Gabby's new "mom," has the undivided attention of at least four poodles. Gabby was rescued by Arlington-based Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation and soon after gave birth to 10 puppies.

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 4

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## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	VA State No.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
WYTHE	1086	52	FORT CHISWELL RD	GALENA CREEK	7/7/2021
WYTHE	1093	52	FORT CHISWELL RD	STREAM	7/7/2021
HANOVER	6016	617	SPRING RD	SOUTH ANNA RIVER	7/6/2021
SMYTH	6345	800	ST. CLAIR CREEK RD	ST CLAIR CREEK	7/3/2021
RICHMOND (M)	8034	7542	GROVE AVE	ROUTE 195 & CSX RR	6/24/2021
SCOTT	6505	617	SHELLEYS RD	BRANCH	6/17/2021
BUCHANAN	1060	460	RIVERSIDE DR	LOONEYS CREEK	6/15/2021
BUCHANAN	1107	T1012	RAILROAD AVE	LEVISA RIVER	6/15/2021
WISE	6219	630	SOUTH MOUNTAIN RD	BAD CREEK	6/11/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org) and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.*

## NEWS

# Firearms Trafficking Strike Force to Crack Down on Crime Guns

Eastern District of Virginia to participate in cross-jurisdictional strike.

The U.S. Department of Justice has launched five cross-jurisdictional strike forces to help reduce gun violence by disrupting illegal firearms trafficking in key regions across the country. Leveraging existing resources, the regional strike forces will help stem illegally trafficked firearms from into five regions: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area/Sacramento Region, and Washington, D.C.

Each strike force region will be led by United States Attorneys, who will collaborate with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and with state and local law enforce-

ment partners. These officials will use the latest data, evidence, and intelligence from crime scenes to identify patterns, leads, and potential suspects in violent gun crimes.

"All too often, guns found at crime scenes come from hundreds or even thousands of miles away. We are redoubling our efforts as ATF works with law enforcement to track the movement of illegal firearms used in violent crimes. These strike forces enable sustained coordination across multiple jurisdictions to help disrupt the worst gun trafficking corridors," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The Department of Justice will use

SEE FIREARMS, PAGE 7

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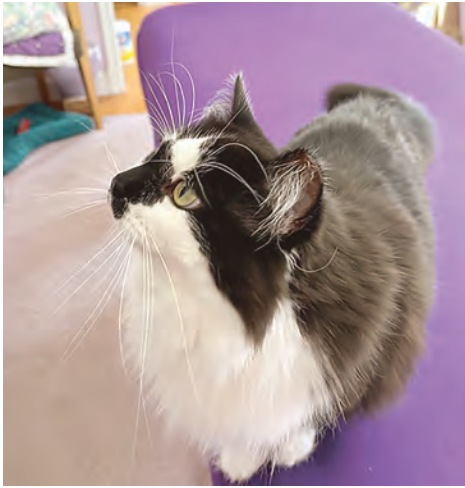


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# PET CONNECTION



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Gypsy just couldn't wait any longer for her morning treat. Lisa tells us just 7 years ago Gypsy was a feral cat roaming the neighborhood on Oxford Street. Look at her now. A comfortable bed, freeze-dried minnows as a regular treat, specialty organic cat food and cold laser treatment for her spine.



It has been reported Jason wasn't handling the loneliness well after the loss of his companion. The office mates didn't have a concern, even the one who was allergic. Now each morning Jason comes to the AFAC (Arlington Food Assistance Center) office to greet all visitors, get pets and treats from his coworkers, but mostly sleeping in the sun. Jason can also be found on the Organizational Chart of AFAC as an unpaid, full-time employee handling Staff Morale.



Seven-year-old Charlie and three-year-old Bill take a short rest on their Saturday mid-morning walk as the neighbors catch up with recent events. Rocka says her children will tell you she treats the Cavachons better than she treats them. "Of course, it's not true, but that's what teenagers would say. We are crazy about our dogs."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Murphy, a Basset hound born on Valentine's Day and now a proud member of the McGeehan family, may be just a puppy but he has already mastered that Basset hound stare.



Maybe not traditional pets but the young fox and the doe with her fawn show up regularly just in time for dinner in this Arlington backyard.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Emma, the eight-and-a-half-year-old Meyer's African parrot, and Matt Srebrow, owner of Eagle Cleaners at Williamsburg Boulevard. "Emma is very popular here. She is good with kids and people come in just to see her," Srebrow says. "And Meyer's can live to be 50 years old," he adds.



# Why We Rescue

The miraculous story of Gabby and her Valley poodle pups. Adopt don't shop.

By ASHLEY SIMPSON  
THE CONNECTION

There wasn't a single dry eye at Gabby's long overdue family reunion in early June. At the time, Gabby hadn't seen her children since they were nine weeks old. Still, as six of her fully grown sons walked into her sprawling Arlington backyard, Gabby greeted each of them as if no time had passed at all.

"Oh, she knew exactly who the 'puppies' were," said Jan Clements, who was one of Gabby the poodle's foster mothers. "She greeted each of them at the gate of her backyard, sniffing them up and down. Every time a different one of her puppies would show up, Gabby would go up to him with her tail wagging, so excited. There were people there, but she wasn't interested in them at all. ... it was all about the puppies for her."

In case you missed it: Gabby and her children are all purebred Standard Poodles. The puppies have been adopted into new homes in Fairfax, Arlington And what made their early summer reunion – and their story in general – remarkable is that not one of their

lives was ever a given.

## Gabby's Christmas Miracle

This story began just a few days before Christmas 2019, when Gabby came into the care of the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation (LDCRF), Arlington-based animal rescue organization. Roughly two years old and pregnant with at least her second litter of puppies, the starving and dejected Gabby had just been removed from an especially inhumane backyard breeding operation in southern Virginia.

"Her hair was badly matted, and she was so malnourished that her coat was the color of rust," said Jan, who is a long-time Lost Dog volunteer. "It was obvious that Gabby had been badly mistreated. That's what you get with backyard breeding situations – people making a lot of money off animals suffering."

Jan and her close friend, Amy Hintosh – another Lost Dog volunteer – first met Gabby when Amy was called into Lost Dog's Rescue Care Center for



From left, Katherine Chang, Amy Hintosh, Laurice Attia, Kim Williams and Jan Clements and oodles of poodles at the reunion of Gabby's puppies. The poodles now live in Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax County, Herndon and Charlottesville.



Laurice Attia doles out some attention at the Arlington poodle reunion.

what was likely Gabby's first ever grooming session. Amy is a professional dog trainer and former groomer, and Jan – with her expertise as a retired physical therapist – came along to soothe this greatly neglected, and thus understandably very anxious, dog.

"They were worried her matted hair would hinder delivery and make it difficult for her pups to access the 'milk bar,'" Amy explained. "Jan came with me as back up in case I needed help and to give Gabby comfort. Once we saw her, we both knew she was special. It broke our hearts to see her in such terrible condition."

Right then and there, Jan and Amy decided to give Gabby a home for Christmas... and for delivering her puppies, whenever that would be.

"We didn't know how pregnant she was, but whenever it was going to happen, I just couldn't see her giving birth outside of a home," Jan said. "She needed a Christmas

miracle and that was something I could give her."

## The Arrival: Puppies, Puppies, and More Puppies

Jan brought the emaciated, pregnant Gabby home, where the plan was for her to take the "day shift," while Amy would stay over and take care of Gabby at nights. Around the clock, Gabby was showered with love and care unlike anything she had ever experienced.

"Gabby hadn't had a lot of love and affection, and she really craved it," Jan recalled. "The first thing we did was try to get her to eat because we had to get food into her to feed the puppies. We also took her to the Shenandoah Valley and went camping, where she really thrived. All the while, she was so thin that we thought she had at least another month to deliver."

As it turned out though, Gabby was only at

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



One of the 10 newborn puppies has a big yawn and loving care.



One of the 10 newborn standard poodle puppies.

Jan's house for 12 days before delivering her puppies. In the wee hours of New Year's Day 2020, Gabby delivered her first healthy puppy, and then the next, and then the next...

"I just kind of braced myself," Jan said. "We were expecting four to five puppies at most, with Gabby being so thin and having lacked proper care and prenatal vitamins. We also weren't necessarily expecting live births. But then the puppies came, and as sick as Gabby was, she was licking and taking care of them, nursing them, and just being such a good mom."

It didn't stop there, either. Even though the average litter size for a healthy Standard Poodle is seven puppies, Gabby went on to deliver ten in total – three girls and seven boys, each of them with either chocolate brown or black coats. And even though some weighed less than a pound at birth, they all survived – thanks to Gabby, Jan, and Amy (and the support of a large community of Lost Dog volunteers).

"For weeks, it was all day, all night feed-



Gabby nursing her 10 puppies shortly after they were born.



Count the cute fuzzies; 10 puppies.

ing puppies," Jan said. "We didn't get a lot of sleep, and that's the commitment you make as a foster parent – doing whatever it took to keep those puppies healthy until they could be adopted."

Nurturing these newborns involved monitoring the puppies' weight regularly to make sure they were eating enough and feeding them when Gabby was too sick to nurse.

Jan and Amy named all ten of these puppies after different areas of the Shenandoah Valley – a region very special to both. In birth order, the puppies were named: Detrick, Markham, Luray, Linden, Royal, Elizabeth, Carmel, Riverton, Helmuth, and Woodstock.

## Saying 'See You Later' (Never Goodbye)

In March 2020, all of Gabby's nine-week-old puppies – and Gabby – were adopted through LDCRF. And since day one of each of the dogs' new lives, all 11 of their families have kept in touch through a private Facebook page that Jan set up for sharing photos, updates, and anecdotes.



Gabby before giving birth, in Shenandoah.

"We wanted Gabby's puppies to have the advantage of growing up together," Jan said. "Amy adopted one of the puppies, Detrick, and the other puppies were officially adopted through a special event. Then Gabby was adopted the next day by her now mother, Denise Elliott, who is the most wonderful pet parent. I really believe God chose her to take Gabby and raise her. Gabby is loved and spoiled and just the sweetest thing, and she lives so close, so we have had the privilege of watching her grow and get healthy."

These days, Gabby is not only the picture of health: in Jan's words, she is also the "poster child for rescue."

"We weren't even sure she would survive labor and delivery, let alone ten healthy puppies," Jan said. "She's the poster child for rescue – this is what it's all about. Dogs come in terrible shape, but if we volunteers can take them into our homes and give them love and affection and let them know they are wanted, lives change. Take Gabby, for example: because one dog came into a rescue, 11 families have been blessed."

And even though not all 10 "puppies" and their families were available for this summer's reunion, Amy said it was still an unforgettable day – especially after a year (plus) marked by COVID-19.

"It was magical," Amy said. "To see Gabby go up to each of the boys as they arrived, sniff them, and start to dance – you could tell she immediately recognized them as her pups. The boys all seemed to recognize her, too. And ... it's been wonderful to remain in touch with all the pups and their adopters. The Facebook page helped so much during the initial pandemic lockdown. The adopters were able to reach out to us, and each other with questions and concerns. We get to see their growth and development and have been able to compare personalities."

The goal for the next reunion is to have Gabby and all ten of her Valley Pups, with their varying personalities, there in the flesh. This gathering is tentatively planned for the fall, and, of course, the Shenandoah Valley is on the shortlist of locations.

As Gabby and the Valley Poodle Pups continue to flourish, LDCRF staff will be telling Gabby's story for years to come. They are just one reason – or 11, rather – why people should adopt, and "not shop" when bringing a new pet home.

In order for LDCRF to continue saving these dogs and cats; donations are always appreciated. You can find more information on Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation at [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org)



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**CALENDAR**

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING**

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Hearings to solicit public comments on the drawing of state and congressional legislative districts in Virginia.

A total of eight public hearings will be held in July and August. Hearings are scheduled regionally both in person and virtually. Hearings will be livestreamed and archived online

For more information on dates and registration:  
**<https://www.virginiaredistricting.org>**  
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# CALENDAR

## JULY 10-AUG. 28

Saturday Adult Technique.  
9:30-11 a.m. At 3700  
S. Four Mile Run Drive,  
Arlington. Get inside dance  
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## JULY 6-AUG. 28

Forty+ Summer 2021. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Jane  
Franklin Dance, 3700 S. Four Mile Run  
Drive, Arlington. Forty+ Projects celebrate  
the collective creativity of people past the  
age of 40 resulting in unique collaboration.  
Projects explore movement and performance  
technique within a creative premise. Cost is  
\$120. Dates: Tuesday, weekly, July 6 - Aug 24;  
12:30-1:30 p.m. and Sat. Aug 28 at 7 p.m.  
Visit the website: [https://www.janefranklin.  
com/adult-dance/forty-plus](https://www.janefranklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus)

## NOW THRU AUG. 28

We Can't Predict Tomorrow Exhibit. At the  
Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd,  
Arlington. We Can't Predict Tomorrow is a  
hopeful glimpse into the unexpected ways  
nine artists approached the relentless tumult  
of the COVID-19 global pandemic. In sculp-  
ture, photography, installation, drawing, and  
painting, the works reveal themes that have  
taken on a heightened urgency under the du-  
ress of the prolonged quarantine and isolation  
in the U.S.:

## THURSDAY/JULY 29

Rosslyn LIVE from Gateway Park. 6:30 p.m.  
Located at Gateway Park - 1300 Lee Hwy., Ar-  
lington. Beginning on July 15, you're invited  
to grab a drink and experience three themed  
nights of interactive dance performances,  
sing-a-long moments, and Instagrammable in-  
stallations throughout Gateway Park. Website:  
<https://www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-live>  
Thursday, July 29, 2021 6:30 p.m. Drag.

## FRIDAY/JULY 30

Lubber Run Summer Concert Series. Fridays and  
Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 11 a.m. At  
North Columbus Street and 2nd Street North  
(two blocks north of Rt. 50), Arlington. The

Lubber Run Summer Concert series features  
free performances from a variety of genres  
including big band, blues, soul and orchestral  
music as well as cabaret to the Lubber Run  
Amphitheater.

### Schedule

Friday, July 30 -- Nkula  
Sat. July 31 -- 19th Street Band  
Sun. Aug. 1 -- Mr. Jon & Friends (Family Perfor-  
mance)  
Fri. Aug. 6 -- La Marvela  
Sat. Aug. 7 -- Bobby Thompson  
Sun. Aug. 8 -- Mr. Gabe and the Circle Time All-  
Stars (Family Performance)  
Fri. Aug. 13 -- The Grandsons  
Sat. Aug. 14 -- National Chamber Ensemble  
Sun. Aug. 15 -- Rainbow Rock Band (Family  
Performance)

### ONGOING

The National Park Service has reopened Arling-  
ton House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial,  
following a complete rehabilitation of the site  
and transformation of the visitor experience.  
New exhibits and research allow the NPS to  
interpret the history of the Custis and Lee  
families alongside that of the more than 100  
enslaved people who labored on the plan-  
tation. Together, their stories reveal a more  
complete picture of life at Arlington House  
and of the people and events that changed  
our nation. The rehabilitation, which began in  
2018, was made possible through a \$12.35  
million donation by philanthropist David M.  
Rubenstein to the National Park Foundation.  
Arlington House is open daily from 9 a.m. to  
4:30 p.m. To enter the plantation house,  
visitors need to obtain a timed-ticket through  
[recreation.gov](https://recreation.gov). No tickets are required to visit  
the museum, north and south slave quarters,  
grounds and gardens.

# Firearms Trafficking

FROM PAGE 2

all of its tools – enforcement, prevention,  
intervention, and investment – to help en-  
sure the safety of our communities – the  
department's highest priority.”

According to gun trace data, a signif-  
icant number of firearms recovered in  
Washington, D.C. originate from outside  
the city. The new strike force will help  
ensure sustained and focused coordi-  
nation between law enforcement and  
prosecutors in the Washington, D.C.,  
metropolitan area, including in the East-  
ern District of Virginia, with their coun-  
terparts in locations where many of the  
firearms originate.

Acting U.S. Attorney Raj Parekh said:  
“Disrupting the flow of illegally traf-  
ficked firearms is critical to reducing  
the painful toll that gun violence in-  
flicts on our communities and loved  
ones. Through our participation in the  
cross-jurisdictional strike force, EDVA  
will bring to justice gun traffickers and  
others who enable this tragic cycle of vi-  
olence. ... Because many of the firearm  
source locations for the Washington,  
D.C., metropolitan area overlap with the  
source locations for firearms recovered  
in the New York City area, we will work  
closely with our New York City coun-  
terparts to help make our communities saf-  
er for everyone.”

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## Bedridden in Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It all started innocently enough: on Crystal  
Beach in Galveston Texas while enjoying a family  
vacation. Due to 11 years of chemotherapy, I have  
neuropathy in both feet. As a result, I never walk  
barefoot, especially on a beach, unless of course,  
I go into the water. Which on the Saturday before  
last. I did. When I returned to my beach chair, with  
my feet all sandy and wet, I elected not to put my  
sneakers and socks on for the 50-yard walk back  
to our accommodations. Oh (literally), how I wish  
I had.

Not 10 feet from the end of the beach was  
a narrow strip of road (tar, concrete, I can't  
remember) which we had to cross to reach the  
grassy margins which would then take us to our  
house. No sooner had I stepped left, right, left,  
that I felt like a buffalo which had been shot on  
the Great Plains, as I immediately collapsed onto  
a neighbor's yard swearing in pain as I landed;  
as the heat of the pavement seared through the  
bottom of both feet. As I sat on the grass with my  
heels clenched and my toes pointing skyward,  
I thought, "I'm not going to be able to walk the  
25 yards to our house." Somehow, within a few  
minutes, I summoned up the strength to stand and  
somehow I managed to hobble my way home. (I'll  
spare you the details of the excruciating pain I  
endured walking up the 20+ wooden steps to get  
inside our house.)

The following day, I remained inside with my  
feet off the floor and my socks on angling for some  
kind of relief. The only times I had to move (to  
visit the bathroom) were sheer torture. Later that  
day, I relented and let my wife, Dina, look at my  
feet. She removed my bloody socks and recoiled  
in horror. To say it wasn't a pretty sight isn't really  
stating the obvious. It's stating that I was oblivious.  
I suffered through the rest of the night, taking only  
Extra Strength Tylenol for pain. It didn't really  
work. The next day we drove to Urgent Care.

I was seen within 15 minutes of my arrival.  
The physician's assistant on call removed my  
socks and assessed the damage. He said I had  
second degree burns on the soles of both feet. He  
prescribed an antibiotic pill, a pain pill and some  
medicinal cream. The cream was to be smeared  
on a non-adhesive bandage which then was to be  
placed on the affected areas and wrapped with a  
self-sticking, ace-type bandage which was to be  
changed twice a day. I was given my prescriptions  
and a set of crutches. Soon I was out the door -  
via a wheelchair, and then Dina drove us across  
the street to a pharmacy where we picked up our  
goodies. Finally, we had a treatment plan and  
relief in sight. Oh (literally) how I wish it were  
so.

The next day was our last day of vacation. Of  
course I was no use to anybody as the house was  
cleaned and everyone packed their stuff as the cars  
were loaded with luggage (and back down those  
same 25 wooded steps). It was nearly three hours  
later (after a two-hour car ride) with Dina driving  
(don't tell the car rental place) as I squirmed in  
pain, until we arrived at our airport gate with yours  
truly getting wheelchair assistance.

Circumventing lines to drop off baggage  
and pass through security, with haste and super  
efficiency, we eventually were deposited at Gate  
A17 in plenty of time to make our departure.  
Unfortunately, the pain had not really subsided.  
In my mind I knew I was going to Urgent Care  
later that night after we arrived home in Maryland.  
These painkillers couldn't kill a fly let alone the  
pain from a second degree burn. (We were seen  
that night at a local Urgent Care around 11 pm.  
They confirmed the diagnosis, but they prescribed  
a more serious painkiller: perocet. Which so far  
hasn't stopped the pain. Duller it, maybe?)

Back at the gate, while we waited to board,  
a woman came over to sit next to where I had  
stretched out across two seats to minimize the  
pain. Dina explained to her the reason why I had  
my legs outstretched was because I was injured.  
She smiled and said: "Would you mind if I ... ?  
Stay tuned to this space for "Still Bedridden in  
Burtonsville" publishing Wednesday, August 4th.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for  
The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.





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